

THE  
**Library Journal**

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO

**Library Economy and Bibliography**

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## MITCHELL'S,

830 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

A. J. BOWDEN.

GEO. D. SMITH.

# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

VOL. 17

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No. 3

A BILL has been introduced into the Legislature of New York State, providing for a Public Library for Brooklyn. It is interesting to note that out of the twenty leading cities of the country in point of population, only five are without public libraries, either by provision of law or by gift of citizen. These cities are New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Washington and Louisville, Ky. Of these New York will soon have the Tilden Library, and Washington has practically a free public library in the Library of Congress. It is certainly time that a city ranking fourth in the United States, like Brooklyn, should have a free public library system, but it would be most unfortunate if an attempt should be made to organize such a system on the lines of the bill introduced into the Legislature. This provides for the issue of bonds to the amount of \$600,000 under resolution of the Common Council, and for an income of \$40,000 per year out of taxes, the library to be administered by a Board of Trustees, of whom nine are to be appointed by the Mayor, and the others are to be the Mayor, *ex officio*, as President of the library, and the President of the Board of Aldermen, *ex officio*, as Vice-President. If any bill could be better fitted to mismanage a library and turn it over to the politicians, we have yet to see it. It would be a great shame if a city of the enlightenment of Brooklyn put aside all library experience and committed itself to such a mistake as this. It has been understood, however, that the bill would be freely amended in its course through the Legislature, and we earnestly hope that this will be the case.

It is very doubtful whether a public library system of this magnitude should be introduced into a great city without a direct vote of the people, not only because of the principle of home rule, but because the vote itself and the campaign which is likely to precede it awaken the people to a sense of the importance of a public library and make them ready to use it to full advantage. A bill of this sort should also provide liberally for a branch library system and for proper rela-

tions with the schools. Brooklyn is in the fortunate position of having a great library in the Brooklyn Library, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that this library itself might become the useful nucleus of a central public library if the matter were rightly handled; it has the further advantage of several free libraries in different parts of the city, which, without surrendering their autonomy, could easily be made branches for the distribution of books from the central library. With such possibilities before it, Brooklyn, starting a library system in the light of the great library experience and progress of the past twenty years, should afford a model organization, and it would be far better to delay the development of a public library for Brooklyn than to make the mistakes threatened in the bill as originally introduced.

IN replying to criticisms of the Examining Committee upon the use of marble for a flooring in the new Boston Public Library, the trustees remark that "a marble floor has been used from the beginning in the large hall of the present building, and, so far as is known, there has been no complaint of its 'sonority.'" Probably the "experts" consulted by the trustees were not aware that marble has this disadvantage; but one expert not consulted — Mr. Poole — has alluded to it in his pamphlet on library architecture. The cold, uncomfortable appearance and noise of Bates Hall has always been a subject of common remark among readers there, but probably no one ever made formal complaint to the trustees about it for several reasons: first, because Americans are not in the habit of making formal complaints about inconveniences or even of "writing to the *Times*" about them, though our habits are slowly approximating to those of the English in this respect; second, because the evil was so obvious that it was supposed to be needless to complain of it; third, because the floor was no doubt regarded as a fixed fact and it was felt to be useless to complain of it; fourth, because people think — and often find — that it is labor lost to complain even of removable evils. For instance:

we heard lately of a concert-goer writing to the authorities of a certain concert hall that the lamps used to light the players dazzled the hearers, and suggesting an arrangement which would have cost perhaps five dollars, by which the eyes of the audience would be protected. The letter was courteously acknowledged and nothing was done. The moral of all this is that those who have charge of public institutions must not depend entirely upon complaints, but go in advance of them; must put themselves in the place of the public, try to imagine their discomforts and difficulties, and devise remedies. Even if they do this they will fail, for it is not possible to satisfy everybody, or even one person in all things.

In the interest attaching to Senator Mander-son's bill, Senator Gallinger's (S. 1006), to provide for the free exchange through the mails between the several States, and between said States and foreign nations, of public printed reports and documents of the several States should not be overlooked. It is of less general importance than the printing bill, but it concerns most of the State libraries nearly, especially those which struggle along with insufficient appropriations for library expenses. To them the cost of transportation of exchanges is a serious drain on the exchequer. If both bills are passed, this will indeed be a great year for libraries.

AMERICAN librarians will cordially welcome the three new accessions to their ranks, Prof. Hosmer, Mr. Dwight, and Prof. Steiner. The first two have already been librarians, though in libraries of a very different character from those of which they now take charge. All three will have to learn their business, Prof. Hosmer probably the least of all, as his long experience as trustee and his interest in the American Library Association must have led him to reflect upon many of the problems of librarianship. We are especially glad that the liberally managed Minneapolis Library is to fall into the hands of one who is fully in sympathy with its liberal policy. The essay on Browsing in libraries, read at the Fabyans Conference, marked him out as the man especially fitted for the headship of the institution that was the first city library to open its shelves freely to the public. It is certain that he will not desire to abridge its liberties in the least. We repeat, all three will be cordially welcomed, and we hope that all three will seek the means of grace offered by the annual conferences of our Association.

## Communications.

### ADVERTISEMENTS IN LIBRARY BULLETINS.

A CHICAGO bookseller wrote to Mr. J. C. Dana, public librarian at Denver:

"Your note of the 29th ult., with bulletin, is received. Should be pleased to favor you if we could do so to mutual benefit. We do not find any kind of catalogues or library bulletins of any value to us as advertising mediums. The cost of the ad. is always greater than the sales it makes. Patrons of public libraries are not the class who buy works for private use."

Mr. Dana desires to ask through the JOURNAL if this is true.

### MAKING KNOWN LIBRARY RESOURCES. CENTRAL FREE LIBRARY, BIRMINGHAM, ENG.

THOUGH I am unable to attend the meetings of the New York Library Club, I am very much interested in its work.\*

With reference to the best mode of making known to the public the resources of a library:

In Birmingham, at the central and branch libraries, recent additions are placed in cases with glass fronts on the public counter, so that borrowers may see for themselves the new books as soon as they are added, without having to refer to the catalogue. The plan is very successful.

J. D. MULLINS.

### CHILDREN IN A LIBRARY.

I DWELT in halls of learning  
As guardian of the books,  
Where stood, 'mid Gothic shadows,  
The bust of Socrates;  
Without were lawn and garden  
And academic trees,  
One June there came fair children  
To peep in all my nooks.

Oh, many a deaf old volume  
Could hear their every tone;  
Upon the books of science  
Their breath was soft and warm;  
Their eyes made bright the record  
Of some historic storm;  
They smiled upon the poets,  
Who knew them for their own!

Whene'er I look on Mildred  
I hear the silence sing;  
By Ethelwyn I fancy  
A white protector nigh;  
But if on darling Beatrice  
You chance to fix an eye,  
Why then you think all mischief  
A very lovely thing.

Their summer hats they braided  
With honeysuckle vine;  
I plucked it at their bidding,  
And then me too they crowned,  
Remember, O my spirit!  
In city tempest drowned,  
That library the squirrel knew,  
At play upon the pine.

If, after life of battle,  
I conquer with renown,  
And lead a holy triumph  
Along the Narrow Way,  
I'll not be crowned with laurel,  
I'll not be crowned with bay:  
I'll kneel before the children  
For a honeysuckle crown!

Albert J. Edmunds, in the Home-Maker.

\* A letter to G. Watson Cole, Esq., Secretary of New York Library Club.



## AN INDEX TO BIOGRAPHIES AND PORTRAITS.

BY PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

FOR several years it has been my habit, in running through various books dealing with American subjects, to note on slips the biographical sketches of Americans they contained, which in leisure moments were alphabetized. Carried on with little system, and therefore most imperfect and uneven, it proved to be of so much use that I was led to outline a more comprehensive plan, and for some two years have used the spare time of my amanuensis in analyzing many different works, that contain such biographies. In this way some 25,000 references have been recorded, and but a small section of the work has yet been done. So vast indeed has the subject proved that it becomes questionable if it is possible to make a comprehensive index of it, and still more whether, when made, it would be possible to print it, and so I have hesitated whether "to let the work go on." But the great steps made in the last few years, through the instrumentality of the A. L. A., in indexes has made me decide to submit a sample of the work as far as done, to the library profession, and ask their frank opinions on sundry questions. But first a word or two as to the work already completed, and as to the sample given.

As a sample of the work already done I have taken at random about 50 consecutive slips. In each case, as will be seen, I attempt to show the full name, the date of birth and death, and "p," at the end indicates a portrait, so that the index will be one of portraits as well as biographies. I do not attempt here to give the key to the abbreviations of the different works, which would ultimately be prefixed to it, as it seems unnecessary, and indeed the bulk of them will tell their own story sufficiently.

No attempt has been made as yet to index the leading biographical dictionaries, such as Appleton and Thomas, or such works as Allibone and Poor. But many minor collections have been analyzed, especially those treating of special trades and professions, or of groups and classes of people. The several historical magazines have been indexed, and slips made of a large collection of separate biographies and funeral sermons. The plan will, if carried on, include everything within the above lines given in such works as Sabin's *Dictionary*, Poole's and Fletcher's *Indexes*, the *Index of Essays*, the *Boston Athenaeum Catalogue*, *The Index Society's*

*Annual*, and many others of the same kind. But certain classes present obstacles more than the mere indexing. Among those that occur to me as difficult to deal with satisfactorily are:

I. Biographies in College "class" and "alumni" records.

II. Biographies in Trade and Technical periodicals.

III. Biographies in Genealogies.

IV. Biographies in Local histories.

To make the indexing of the larger part of these possible, without making the cost prohibitive, one of two things is needed. Either co-operation from libraries who have these classes, or the loan of them to the compiler, so that they may be indexed in the manner already alluded to. Even if this latter method could be adopted, the cost in expressage alone would be a large one, for these four classes include many thousand volumes.

From a survey of these difficulties I have concluded to lay the plan before the profession, in hopes of suggestion, information, and criticism on the points covered in this article, and others which may occur to them. And I shall be most grateful for all answers to the following questions, on which largely depend whether I merely continue the list with my own private uses of it in view, or whether I endeavor to elaborate it so that it may take its place with *Poole* and *Fletcher*.

I. Is such an index desirable?

II. How comprehensive should it be?

III. Is co-operation possible?

IV. Is printing possible?

How far it would be wise to include newspaper biographies in such a list is another problem. In running thro' colonial and revolutionary newspapers, I have always noted sketches, but the biographical material for those days is so inadequate that any fragment even is of value. But the modern newspaper biographies are legion, and tho' for the most part of persons who never are otherwise sketched, yet the value of the product seems hardly commensurate to the labor it would involve. I should like to know, however, if there are other collections of newspaper obituary notices besides the great one Mr. Hardwell has gathered?

I shall also be grateful for all lists of works which librarians consider are of such especial importance as to be included in such an index.

- Dupont, Thomas Francis.  
Duyckinck's Portrait Gallery. II. 432 p.
- Du Portail, Chev. Louis Lebeque.  
Am. Hist. Record. III. 24.
- Dupree, Col.  
Foot's Bench and Bar of the South. 248.
- Dupuis, Nathan Fellows. 1836—  
Rose's Can. Bio. 610.
- Dr. Thomas R. 1833—  
Rose's Can. Bio. 559.
- Dupuy, Eliza Ann.  
Raymond's Southland Writers. I. 87.
- Durand, William Cecil. 1851—  
Bio. Sketches of State Officers of Conn. Hart.: 1883.  
219 p.
- Durant, George G. 1842—  
Bio. Sketches of State Officers of Conn. Hart.: 1883.  
241 p.
- Thomas C.  
Am. Biography. Vol. I. N. Y.: n. d. p.
- Durbin, Rev. John P.  
A. D. Jones' Illustrated Am. Bio. N. Y.: 1855. 283 p.
- Durell, Edward Henry. 1810-1887.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. XLI. 347.
- Durfee, Job. 1790-1847.  
Duyckinck's Cyclo. of Am. Literature. II. 127.
- Nathan. 1790-1876.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. XXX. 477.  
Rose's Can. Bio. 262.
- Durham, Earl of. 1793-1840.  
Rose's Can. Bio. 262.
- Durkee, Cynthia Helen.  
In Memory of. n. p. 1889. p.
- Duryea, Abram.  
F. Moore's Notable Men of the Time. N. Y.: 1869.  
131 p.  
Am. Biography. Vol. I. N. Y.: n. d.
- Charles T.  
W. D. Murphy's Bio. of State Officials. Alb.: 1863. 314.
- H. B.  
W. D. Murphy's Bio. of State Officials. Alb.: 1858. 166.
- Dustin, Hannah.  
J. Clement's Noble Deeds of Am. Women. Auburn:  
1854. 108.
- Dutcher, John B.  
W. D. Murphy's Bio. of State Officials. Alb.: 1863. 164.
- Luther S.  
W. D. Murphy's Bio. of State Officials. Alb.: 1853. 315.
- Dutton, Rev. Aaron. 1780-1849.  
Sprague's Annals of the Am. Pulpit. II. 499.
- George. 1780-1855.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. IX. 196.
- Henry. 1796-1869.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. 24. 184.  
J. Livingston's Sketches of Am. Lawyers. N. Y.: 1852.  
618.
- Matthew Rice. 1783-1825.  
Sprague's Annals of the Am. Pulpit. II. 502.
- Ormond Horace. 1829-1868.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. 24. 176.
- Duval, Gen. John Pope.  
J. Livingston's Sketches of Am. Lawyers. N. Y.: 1852.  
729.
- Duvall, Gabriel. 1752—  
Sharf's Hist. of Md. II. 597.
- Duy, Albert W.  
Simpson's Eminent Philadelphians. 333.
- Duyckinck, Evert Augustus.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. 23. 133 p.  
S. Osgood's Memoir on. Boston: 1879. p.
- Gerardus.  
Steven's Records of the N. Y. Chamber of Commerce.  
130.
- Rev. Henry.  
E. H. Krams' Sermon on. N. Y.: 1870.
- Duyckings, P.  
Sabin's Am. Loyalists. I. 401.
- Dwight, Dr. Benjamin Woolsey.  
B. W. Dwight's Reminiscences of. N. Y.: 1862.
- Edmund.  
Our First Men. B.: 1846. 20.
- Harvey Prentice. 1828—  
Rose's Can. Bio. 45.
- Henry W.  
I. L. Robertson's Sketches of Pub. Characters. B.:  
1830. 37.
- Rev. James Harrison.  
H. M. Booth's Sermon on. N. Y.: 1873.
- Josiah. 1671-1748.  
Sibley's Graduates of Harvard Univ. III. 395.
- Rev. Louis. 1793-1854.  
Sprague's Annals of the Am. Pulpit. II. 669.
- Mary Ann. 1807-1859.  
Historical Mag. III. 28.
- Rev. Sereno Edwards. 1786-1850.  
Sprague's Annals of the Am. Pulpit. II. 629.
- Theodore. 1796-1866.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. XXI. 80, 197.
- Timothy. 1835-1718.  
Alden's Am. Epitaphs. III. 54.
- Rev. Timothy. 1752-1817.  
J. Farmer's Hist. Col. Concord: 1823. 389.  
D. Olmsted's Analysis of. New Haven: 1858.  
D. Sherman's Sketches of N. E. Divines. 219.  
Biographica Americana. N. Y.: 1825. 96.  
C. Chapin's Sermon on. N. Haven: 1817.  
Am. Hist. Record. II. 385.  
Sprague's Annals of the Am. Pulpit. II. 148.  
Duyckinck's Cyclo. of Am. Literature. I. 357 p.  
Herring's National Portrait Gallery. N. Y.: 1824. 1. p.
- Lieut.-Col. Wilder. 1833-1862.  
Life and Letters of. B.: 1868. p.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. XVII. 76.
- Dr. William T. 1796-1866.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. XX. 79.
- Dwinell, Deborah. 1784-1865.  
N. E. Hist.-Gen. Reg. XX. 168.
- James F.  
Government of 1883. B.: 1883. 12.
- Dyck, Charles. 1787-1871.  
Am. Hist. Record. III. 324.
- Dyckman, Garrett.  
W. D. Murphy's Bio. of State Officials. Alb.: 1858. 167.
- Dyer, Eliphalet. 1721-1807.  
The Pa. Mag. III. 174.
- Dymond, Alfred Hutchinson. 1827.  
Rose's Can. Bio. 21.

## LIBRARY DIRECTIONS.

BY C. E. LOWREY, *Librarian of the University of Colorado.*

1. If a stranger, introduce yourself to the librarian on entering.

2. All have the privilege of free access to the shelves. Kindly return books to shelves, and papers to pigeon-holes in order found and neatly folded.

3. Subject, Author and Classified Catalogues are now accessible. The librarian will be glad to explain the classification, catalogues and location of books on the shelves to all.

4. Library courtesy requires that there be no conversation above a whisper, except with the librarian.

The Card Catalogue is arranged in three lists:

1. Alphabetical Index of Subjects.

2. Alphabetical Index of Authors.

3. Classified Catalogue by Topics with Titles in full. Every book in the General Library has now constructed at least one card for each of these three catalogues.

These catalogues answer respectively the questions:

1. What books and articles does the library contain on a given subject?

2. What works by a given author?

3. How much of a collection in any line of investigation?

Every card constructed in each catalogue contains a complete bibliography: author, title, edition, volumes, place and time of publication, size, and pages, and in specific cases a passing comment of points of special interest. At the left on each card are the class, book and accession number, in their order, corresponding to numbers on the book-plates and shelves.

Poole's and Fletcher's Indices must be consulted in general periodical literature. No cards have yet been made for the books in the Congressional Library. These comprise valuable public documents on Agriculture, Astronomy, Census, Coast Survey, Congress, Consular Reports, Education, Elections, Engineers, Exhibitions, Fisheries, Interior, Labor, Land, Messages and Treaties, Navy, Patents, Post-Office, Rebellion Records, Signal Service, Smithsonian Reports, Treasury and Finance, War, etc. Students will find the reports of much value. The shelves have been labelled, and admission can be secured at any time.

## WHAT A BIBLIOGRAPHY SHOULD BE.

BY VICTOR CHAUVIN.\*

THE enormous literary production of every country renders good bibliographies more and more necessary, or rather, absolutely indispensable to the student. It is well, therefore, to encourage all works of this kind, especially if it bears the mark of long and extensive research, as in Mr. Ashbee's case.

Mr. Ashbee himself, however, bears witness to the indifference of the public. "Bibliography," he says, on page 2, "is, at least in this country, its own reward." If the public is not blameless in this respect—and it certainly is not, especially in many libraries—bibliographers themselves seem to us not utterly exempt from criticism; they do not always fully understand their mission, and, moreover, the execution of their work sometimes leaves much to be desired.

What is, then, the object of a bibliography? Simply, it would seem, to furnish students on a given subject with an accurate and convenient working implement.

\* In the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswissenschaft* for Oct., 1890, M. Chauvin prefaced a review of H. S. Ashbee's *Bibliography of Tunisia* (London, Dulau, 1889, 8°) with some remarks on the duties of the bibliographer, which seemed to us worth having translated. The translation has been made by A. G. S. L.

Now to attain this end it is first of all necessary that the bibliography should contain a complete enumeration of all works which have appeared during the period in question in books, pamphlets, newspaper and magazine articles, and should include those writings which, though dealing with a different subject, contain, nevertheless, some passage relative to the matter in hand. Of these books or articles, the author should give the entire external history, so to speak, noting all the editions, all the translations, and all the reviews. And as to editions, he should not confine himself to republications only, as in the case of a dictionary revised and corrected, but should also mention the reprints, as a reprint may, by its price or the place of publication, be more available to the reader than any other edition.

But it is a mistake to expect him to give us his personal opinion on the works; to exact that would be to render all bibliographical work literally impossible, unless, indeed, we can content ourselves with an opinion given without due consideration, and consequently more harmful than useful. There are only two cases in which the bibliographer should explain himself: if the

book is a forgery or if it is plagiarism; for anything else it is sufficient for him to cite the reviews, the work of judges who are competent — or who should be so.

In consequence of all this, too large a subject should not be undertaken; human strength is not sufficient for it. And it would seem impossible for a single man to properly execute a plan as immense as that of Grasse's "*Trésor de livres*."

So much for quantity. As to quality, which is essential, it will depend on the method of the author. Now in bibliography the only true method is inspection, which alone can furnish trustworthy information. Of course it is often necessary to depend on catalogues, tables, or bibliographies, but it should only be when the book itself cannot be seen; as a matter of fact, incomplete information is better than silence. But in such case the reader should be warned, and his attention drawn to the possibility or probability of errors.

When the materials have been collected, they

should be presented with the greatest clearness; in this respect many books are at fault. They may be arranged alphabetically, or by subjects; but in the first case there should be an index arranging them under different heads. And always when a bibliography includes a large number of subjects classification by subject seems preferable.

If such be the ideal which the bibliographer should seek to attain, we hasten to add that it would be unjust and unreasonable to demand the full realization of it. In order to judge fairly in this matter it must be remembered that as yet there is no complete bibliography, and probably it will be some time before there is any. But what we have a right to exact is that the author shall furnish us with a certain number of reliable notices, which we shall have no need to correct or remake; in this respect he will succeed if he resorts as often as possible to inspection, and in that case he will also be complete, since every book seen by him will guide him to others, and those again to others still.

## THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BY C. C. SOULE.

(Continued from the February issue.)

### II. NEGLECT OF BRANCH LIBRARIES AND SCHOOL WORK.

WHEN the Boston Public Library was established in 1852 it was a pioneer, and had to feel its way forward without precedents. As pointed out by Dr. Samuel A. Green, in the 26th annual report, 1878, the first 16 years, while Prof. Jewett was superintendent, constituted the literary or bibliographical period of its history, during which the library was collected, classified, and catalogued; and the next 10 years (1868-1878), during which Mr. Winsor was superintendent, represented its organizing or administering period.

No one can read the ten reports covering the latter term without being impressed with the vigor of the management and the constant development of the usefulness of the library. The circulation rose in these 10 years from 200,000 (in round numbers) to 1,200,000.

This apparently marked the high tide of usefulness, for after 1878, though the library and the city both increased constantly in size, the circulation dwindled.

Whoever attempts to verify this statement will find a startling discrepancy between the 38th and 39th annual reports. Up to and including the 38th report, the table of circulation includes a comparison of the last 10 years, under the heading "Circulation; Books Issued." The circulation for 1889 is here put down at about 1,100,000. But in the 39th report, under the head of "Circulation" alone, only 1889 and 1890 are put

down, the former (in round numbers) being put at 1,800,000. Where this jump of 700,000 volumes comes from is a puzzle, solved by referring to the librarian's report of Jan. 1, 1890, which mentions that 627,000 magazines were used in the reading-room. This is apparently the unexplained addition.

So far as the annual reports show, and so far as the public can see, there has been little advance or development in any sphere of activity or usefulness. The old methods established under Winsor's administration are many of them continued effectively, but to-day the citizens of Boston can get at the library very few facilities which could not be had in 1878.

While the Boston Library has been stagnating, or, in the opinion of many persons actually retrograding, during these last 14 years, there has been elsewhere throughout this and other countries a wonderful development in the usefulness of public libraries, and especially in their contact with the people.

The old idea that the whole duty of a library is to be prepared to hand out over a desk what readers come and ask for has been developed into the belief that the library should open its shelves as freely as possible to those who wish to consult books, and should carry and offer in remote corners of its community the books which the people there ought to use. In these and many other ways, to quote a recent utterance of Mr. Winsor, there has been a recognition of "the modern gospel, which makes a library more the servant than the master of its users."

Perhaps the most important modern method of library service is the development of branch libraries and delivery stations. There is some discussion among librarians as to the policy of spending much money on branches, but there is very little difference of opinion as to the efficacy of delivery stations and branch reading-rooms in large cities, and there is no doubt that when branch libraries are established, or are taken in by the consolidation of suburbs with the city, the citizens using them have a right to demand in certain lines as good accommodations and facilities for getting books as they would have enjoyed if their cities had not been absorbed.

There is little need here of quoting opinions as to the usefulness of delivery stations, through which citizens of outlying wards can get books without the need of coming in to the central library. Whoever is interested in the matter may find some excellent comments on the system in Mr. Winsor's report of 1877. He there shows that the opening of the branches appears to have stimulated also the use of the central library; and he recommends the opening of 15 additional branches and deliveries (very few of which have been opened in the 15 years since that report), and that all be connected with the central library by telegraph and telephone.

Dr. Green, in the report of 1878, says: "This mechanism can go on, subdividing the channels and multiplying the depositories of reading-matter as fast and as far as they may be required. The ease with which the deliveries for the firemen and the public institutions have been kept up shows that this question is one only of care and detail, and of little cost."

Recent examining committees have called attention to the need of more reading-rooms, poor quarters of branches, lack of supervision from the central library, need of telephonic communication, and need of an inspector of branches.

Conversation with members of these examining committees develops the belief that the branches are managed on the policy of keeping the public at arm's length; that the new books and duplicates of popular books are not furnished in adequate quantities; that few active attempts are made through these neighborhood agencies to reach the classes of the population it is especially desirable to bring under the civilizing influence of good reading; that the delivery system has not been properly extended or improved; and that, in short, this whole powerful agency for carrying the people's books to the people's homes has been neglected, cramped, and starved.

In illustration, attention is called to the fact that the small suburban town of Brookline adds annually to its library over a thousand volumes. The average number of volumes added to the Boston branches for the year 1888, 1889, and 1890 was as follows:

East Boston.....	97	Dorchester.....	334
South Boston.....	186	Jamaica Plain.....	260
Roxbury.....	209	South End.....	232
Fellows Athenæum.....	370	West Roxbury.....	12
Charlestown.....	103	North End.....	8
Brighton.....	89		

As these branches have the central library to draw on, it is not, of course fair to say that each

branch should get annually as many books as the town of Brookline adds to its library, but the discrepancy ought not to be as great as these figures indicate.

In the 39th annual report, in reply to searching criticisms of the Examining Committee on the conduct of the branches, etc., the trustees say they "were confronted with the question whether the central library should be permanently and irreparably injured in order to provide the customary supply of books to the branches, or whether the branches should suffer temporary inconvenience in order to keep the central library from suffering such injury. They decided that it was best that the branches should suffer."

And this was in the year when the trustees spent \$2000 for a reprint of a short letter of Columbus and \$6000 for one old book of Massachusetts records, and in the very year when the same trustees increased the outlay on the new building \$1,000,000 for architectural effect, as will appear later on.

The 5500 francs which (according to the curious story now going the rounds) were spent in that year, or the year before, for an imported French clock would, in itself, if spent for literature instead of for bric-à-brac, have increased by one-half the number of books bought for the branches.

Next to the development of the delivery system, perhaps the most important phase of modern library progress is the co-operation of libraries with schools.

Public attention was called to this subject by Charles Francis Adams, Jr., in an address delivered at Quincy in 1876, and since that time the pages of library literature teem with discussions of its bearings.

The fundamental idea of this co-operation is (from the library point of view) that, if children of school age can be taught how to use and appreciate good books they can guide themselves to profitable reading after they graduate. In the families where the parents have the taste, experience, and time to direct the reading of their children, no other help may be necessary.

But in very many families the parents cannot assume this responsibility, and the only possible advisers for the children are the teachers in the schools. They have a constant opportunity of leading their pupils to the reading of good books, and of teaching them how to get and use the treasures of a public library. A fondness for reading formed at this early age may not only freshen and sweeten the drier courses of study, but may so occupy leisure hours as to turn the school graduate from the street corner and groggery, and keep him in the course of steady and useful citizenship.

If there were space and time to spare, it would be interesting to describe at length the many methods developed by enthusiastic librarians and teachers for using literary books in connection with school studies, or for home reading under the direction of the teacher.

There are so many other topics to treat, however, that the chief methods only can be here mentioned. One way of utilizing the expensive sets and folios of engravings which are hidden away on the shelves of every large library is to



bring classes of scholars to the library and show them the engravings which illustrate the study—history, geography, science, literature—which they have in hand.

There are various ways of assisting scholars in their themes and compositions by special lists of authorities to be consulted, by a guarded permission to examine books on the shelves, by placing in some accessible place the books wanted for use in the reading-room.

There are many ways of introducing and habituating children to the use of dictionaries, encyclopædias, and other books of reference.

For younger children teachers are allowed the privilege of taking out books in quantities for use in the school-room, or for issue for home use, as if the school was a delivery station. In all these different methods the school-teacher is the guide of the student in the use of books, and the librarian is the intelligent provider of material.

A very readable little volume on this subject, entitled "Libraries and Schools," was published in 1883. It contains Mr. Adams' address, and various papers by S. S. Green, of Worcester; W. E. Foster, of Providence, and others.

On pp. 50, 51 Mr. Green shows how co-operation of the public library with schools is just as practicable in a large city like Boston as in smaller towns, where the system has proved to be successful. He points out the great usefulness of branch libraries in this connection. To do the work properly, however, a superintendent should be assigned to it, and an ample supply of rooms set aside for school service, both in the new building and at the branches.

Rev. Pitt Dillingham, in the report of the Examining Committee for 1886 (p. 16), writes thus: "A world remains to be conquered by the Boston Public Library in establishing a vital relation with the public schools." A forcible presentation of the matter is found in a report signed by George W. Evans, of the Examining Committee of 1887 (pp. 20-22). The Examining Committee and the librarian recur to the subject in the 37th annual report, 1888.

In answer to a mild allusion of the Examining Committee for 1890, the trustees state plainly and finally (39th annual report, p. 4), that "there seems to be no good reason why pupils or teachers should have any privileges in the library not accorded to all citizens alike."

They thus set themselves against the experience and example of other communities and the whole tendency of progressive library administration, and decide for this city, which ought to lead the country in all educational advances, that it shall have no part in this most interesting and promising development of the literary education of the young.

### III. DEVELOPMENT OF USEFULNESS.

Another interesting phase of recent activity among librarians lies in the successful attempts to bring the public libraries into closer contact with artisans and intelligent workingmen. Upon the character of this class the welfare of our city largely depends. They are especially the people whom the library can and should benefit. With

sufficient intelligence to use books, they cannot spare much money to buy them; and a public library properly administered may benefit the community, while benefiting them, in three directions: By supplying, and inviting the free use of, the best technical works, it can place the men who carry on our industries in touch with the progress of the world, and so help educate them as craftsmen; by supplying, classifying and throwing open to easy use the literature of popular political economy and the State and municipal reports which mark the progress of recent legislation on social affairs, it can give a thoughtful and healthy turn to the study of the pressing problems of labor, capital and government; by taking special pains to reach this class of citizens it can bring to their attention the value of good reading as a home recreation after hours of manual labor, and of technical books in increasing their usefulness and earning capacity.

This subject is touched upon by John Heard, Jr., in the examining committee's report of 1888.

Here, again, there is not sufficient time or space to set forth the admirable work that has been done in this line in various places, notably in Worcester, Mass., and Providence, R. I.

One method only may be mentioned as illustrating the practical nature of the work:

The librarian watches for new books, especially expensive foreign works, bearing on recent developments of the industries carried on in his city. When such a book is received, he gets from the officers of the establishments employed in the industry which is the subject of this volume the names of their foreman and other intelligent workmen, drops a card to each asking him to come and inspect the book, and, when he comes, tries to give him personal attention, and shows him other books on the same topic. This thoughtful service naturally attracts to the use of the library not only the workman himself, but his fellow-workmen and their families in a rapidly increasing circle.

Another excellent method is that reported by Mr. Brett, of the Cleveland Public Library, as follows: "We have during the last few years been issuing books to a few manufacturing firms for their employees. They give us the names and addresses of those who wish to draw books, become responsible for them, and send for and return them. Of the 300 names now registered as users from these manufactories not more than 20 had ever used the library before."

How much of this work is done in Boston, through the central library, or through the branches? No hint of it is given in any of the annual reports, nor in the public press. If it is not done, and done effectively, a great opportunity is missed. To such a wide and important field of usefulness the whole time of one assistant librarian ought to be given, and room ought to be set apart in the new building for this use alone. Boston ought to surpass Worcester, Providence, and Cleveland in the work done by its Public Library for this great section of the people who own the library.

So far as to the masses of the people, the home readers, the children, the mechanics. There is another great class to serve whom has



been the special pride of the Boston Public Library—the students and investigators, who know how to use books, and look to a great library for the material of their literary study or work.

The annual reports constantly advert to the continued and increased facilities offered to this class of readers.

An interesting question for investigation would be, whether the library really offers to them all the facilities it should. There is a great store of books, there are good catalogues, but are all the treasures of the library thrown open to them with sufficient freedom?

To answer this question would require an examination by experts of the system of our library, and careful comparison with the most approved systems elsewhere.

There is one broad fact patent to the public, however, as expressed in the accommodations in the new building. Recent tendencies in library administration are largely in the direction of letting those readers who know how to use books, and have a serious purpose in using them, get directly at the books without the intervention of cards and attendants. The saving of service in administration is evident, and every student knows what a difference there is between sending in successive numbers on a card and having books brought out to him in detail, and the solid satisfaction in standing before the shelves upon which all the books he wants are arrayed, and examining them in the prompt white-heat of research.

The old administrative and restrictive idea, still surviving in many places, was that this privilege could not be granted in large public libraries; the modern progressive idea is that it may be safely granted to a considerable extent, if the books can be arranged with that object in view.

Part of the difference of opinion about the "stack" system of shelving books lies fundamentally in the belief that, where books are packed closely in the tiers of a stack, few others than the library staff can be conveniently allowed to go to the shelves. The most thorough and sweeping assertion of the new idea, in architectural form, is in the building of the Newberry Library, in Chicago, where the whole library is divided into rooms shelved at one side only, the other side being left open for chairs and tables, each room being devoted to one class of books, under the charge of a well-informed librarian always at the service of readers, who are to be allowed, whenever it is possible, direct access to the books on the shelves. Only part of this building is now under construction, but the librarian, Dr. Poole, believes it possible, when the library is finally completed, to have a large number, perhaps even a hundred of such special libraries united under one roof and one administration. Whether this is practicable within the necessary limits of expense is still in question; but there is no doubt that, if it can be carried out as economically as the old system, it will prove of immense advantage to students. The radical idea involved, a guarded access to shelves by users of books, has undoubtedly become one of the great tendencies of library administration. A thoughtful paper by Herbert Putnam, of the Minneapolis Public Library, read before the recent conference

of librarians at San Francisco, discusses this question in its various applications, and points out how in branch libraries even the general public might be allowed to pick out their books from the shelves.

How far is the Boston Public Library in sympathy with this movement? There is nothing in the annual reports to throw light on the subject, but the construction of the new building accords with the old ideas rather than with the new, and, indeed, appears to forbid any very effective changes in this direction. A large part of the building is taken up by an immense hall, to be used as a reading-room, and by a "stack-room," so confined within dark walls around the outside of the square which constitutes the building, as to be utterly unsuited to anything but close packing of the books.

The only rooms available for students are a few in the corner furthest from the stack, and a range of communicating rooms in the upper story, intended partly for the separate libraries set aside by gift, and partly (so rumor says) for the use of students. But these are evidently not planned out in advance for convenient arrangement, or for ready communication with, or access to, the books imprisoned in the mausoleum below.

Whatever arrangement may finally be made, the most cursory study of the plans will show that the new building exhibits in no degree the influence of this very significant and gratifying development of library usefulness.

Here, then, are four great phases of modern progress—extension of the delivery system, school co-operation, special efforts to interest the industrial classes, and access to the shelves for students—almost or wholly ignored in the present administration of the Boston Public Library.

In view of the importance of these greater issues, it seems hardly worth while here to enter into any of the many other and specific criticisms which have been made on the conduct of the departments of the library. Before passing on, however, to general questions of administration, it may be well to allude to a question of principle involved in the recent discontinuance by the trustees of the subscription to *Puck* and *Judge*, on the ground (according to an interview) that the library was an educational institution, and that these papers were not within the proper scope of the reading-room.

Is this a tenable proposition? It is true, in a large sense, that the educational idea is the chief ground for the maintenance of public libraries, but is not the kindergarten principle, that education may come through recreation, as sound in application to reading as it is in connection with schools?

We are a busy nation; men, women and children all get thoroughly tired out with our day's work, and when we find time to read most of us need first rest and recreation before we can grapple with serious literature.

The comic journals and illustrated papers serve to unbend our minds and draw them away from the cares and worries of the world. It is difficult to go directly from the ledger or the work-bench to the pages of the *Nation* or the *Scientific*

American, but if we have a pleasant little break between them our minds may rise to the higher levels without further fatigue.

And is not humor, even the rough and graphic humor of the comic papers, an education in itself? Does it not draw the tired and worried mind out of and up from its sordid daily work, its petty troubles and its serious sorrows? Is it not a mistake to shut out from the reading-rooms of the masses the smiles that leaven the heavier loaves of literature?

#### IV. AMATEUR ADMINISTRATION.

The methods of administration of a public institution largely affect its usefulness. In a library many methods are technical, such as the classification, the charging and issuing system, and the cataloguing. These are for the consideration of experts, rather than of the public, and need not be discussed in these letters.

The wisdom of the financial conduct of the Boston Public Library has not been impugned, and there is, fortunately, not even the faintest or remotest imputation against the honesty of the administration.

There are rumors afloat that there is latent discontent throughout the library staff under the strict rules and rigid discipline of the present management. If this is true it may be only the result of a wise and proper effort to correct lax tendencies, or it may arise from the irritating regulations of a martinet. If the latter, especially if combined with favoritism, it would speedily and seriously affect that good-will and enthusiasm of the staff upon which, rather than upon rigidity of discipline, the public must rely for prompt, willing, and efficient service.

This is a delicate matter to discuss and a difficult one to probe, and may be dismissed here with mere mention.

But there are other matters of administration which ought to be considered. The first one is very serious, as it involves the great principles underlying the government of public institutions.

It would seem to be an accepted theory that every such institution—hospital or school or what not—should be under the immediate charge of a salaried executive, selected with special regard to his training and fitness, and that he should be responsible to a paid or unpaid Board of Commissioners or Trustees representing the public. They have the legislative function of directing the policy of the institution and the judicial function of deciding questions of principle or detail brought to them by their subordinates or by the public, combined with their function of constant supervision over the executive officer.

The latter ought not to assume any of the functions of his controlling board. The board, on the other hand, should leave to him, and make him thoroughly responsible for, the administration of the institution. They will have enough to do, especially if they are unpaid, in discussing broad questions of policy, in studying the resources and capabilities of their institution, and in keeping abreast of progress by reading the literature of their specialty, and by inspecting similar institutions in other cities, States, and countries.

There is no doubt that this is the correct principle of managing libraries as well as other institutions. But it is very far from the method by which the Boston Public Library is now conducted.

There has been no librarian for a year and a half. During that time, and for years before, while Judge Chamberlain was nominally librarian, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (Mr. Abbott) has been in reality the librarian and superintendent, spending a large part of his time at the office, and attending to minute details of discipline and administration.

Is not this an unfortunate and dangerous perversion of the proper principle of management? The responsible control of the library is, in a certain sense, hidden behind a mask. There is no expert or professional head of the establishment. The other trustees, allowing their chairman to do so large a share of the work, are to a great degree estopped from criticising him. They have no such hold upon him as they would have over a salaried executive. They cannot even differ with him seriously on questions of management without disagreeable friction. The executive and legislative and committee functions are all confused and mingled, and danger at once arises of misgovernment and mismanagement.

Again, the Board of Trustees is now about as close a corporation as could well be devised. The popular element has been gradually eliminated. In 1862 there appear to have been five trustees at large, with one representative from the aldermen and one from the Common Council. The ordinance of December 31, 1866, provided for six trustees, two chosen annually, with one alderman and two councilmen. The examining committee of 1867 suggested further changes, but held that it was eminently proper that a full representation of the council should remain on the Board.

In 1878 an act of the Legislature provided for five trustees, one to be appointed each year by the Mayor, with one alderman and one councilman, elected annually. By a later act the two annual representatives of the city government were dropped out, and the board left as now, with five members appointed by the Mayor, one going out annually.

As the Mayor would naturally wish to appoint only such new members as would be acceptable to the older trustees, there is very little chance for new influences to get at the library, popular control is almost entirely lost, and the majority of the board can be changed only by new appointment for three successive years, or by an exercise by the Mayor of his power of removal, which would be an extremely disagreeable resource. As it now happens, the five trustees represent practically only one element and locality. The ideal board would contain one or two representatives from outlying districts, and one person at least in close sympathy with the great masses who ought to use the library.

This board is composed of five excellent gentlemen, of high character and similar social position, who live near each other in the Back Bay district.

It may be well to guard the Public Library

against the evils of popular impulse and political management, but there is another extreme of cultivated exclusiveness to be avoided; and to reach that extreme only two steps would now seem to be necessary—to make the term of the trustees perpetual and to authorize them to name their own successors.

Another great evil of the present system, growing, perhaps, out of the exercise of the librarian's powers by a trustee, is the isolation of the Boston Public Library from other libraries. In dozens of scores of cities and towns, acute, conscientious, and enterprising librarians are developing the usefulness of their libraries in many directions, eagerly watching each other and communicating constantly the results of their investigations, experiments, and inventions.

When Mr. Winsor was appointed librarian, in 1868, he invited correspondence with librarians and others interested upon points of library economy. His ten annual reports are bristling with a comparative study of methods and results in other libraries at home and abroad. What evidence is there in recent reports of any such utilization of the experience of others? Inquire of the leading librarians near Boston and throughout the country, and you will find that no representative of the present management of our library investigates other libraries, either by visit or by correspondence. While there is a forward movement along the whole line of library work; while not only the great libraries, but even the libraries of small cities and towns are devising new methods, or improving old methods of usefulness, acting together in the march of progress, the Boston Public Library now stands aloof, without apparent interest in the development of library science. It is not the other librarians who suffer from this; it is the people of Boston, who are deprived of the example, the aid, and the sympathy of the great body of active librarians of America.

If the trustees of the library want a good librarian, it is not impossible to find one. There may be no one available who has had experience in the management of a library so large as this, but there are at least half a dozen whose names will occur at once to any one familiar with library affairs, who have had experience and success in managing public libraries of large cities, and who appear to deserve promotion. It is doubtful, indeed, whether the salary paid to Judge Chamberlain would tempt any of these librarians to come to Boston; or whether they would accept the position at all under the present system, which makes the chairman of the trustees the real executive, and the librarian only a sort of superior clerk.

If the public wish the present trustees to retain control, and the policy of the library to remain otherwise unchanged, there is one thing which certainly ought to be done in the line of correct administration. Mr. Abbott ought to resign as trustee and accept the position of librarian. He would then be a salaried officer, responsible to other librarians for his professional reputation, openly responsible to the public for his administration, and subject to removal at any time by the trustees if his management was not satisfac-

tory. The Mayor could appoint in his place some resident of Roxbury or Charlestown or Brighton, and so introduce a new element into the governing board.

Is it not worth while to consider, also, the expediency of again having a representation of the City Council on the Board of Trustees, thus bringing the latter into closer relations with the appropriating power and with the people? And may it not be wise to make some change in the examining committee? This is now excellently constituted if its only duty is to say ditto to the trustees. Formerly that was about all it ever did. The increasing inquisitiveness of recent committees only emphasizes their conscientiousness, and the fact that there must be something wrong about the library to stimulate such independent criticism.

If the Board of Trustees is to remain a close corporation, subject only to the Mayor's power of appointment or removal, and to the Council's power of making or withholding appropriations, it would seem more appropriate that the Mayor should select an examining committee to report to the Council and himself, than that the trustees should select, supervise, and criticise their own critics, as they now do.

#### EXTRACT FROM FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

A LARGE part of the fortieth report of the trustees is taken up with answering the report of the Examining Committee, after a preliminary remark that "its advice in regard to future action upon matters which are specially left to the discretion of the trustees, while not required by the terms of the ordinance under which the committee is appointed, will receive the careful consideration which the trustees always gladly accord to the suggestions of any of their fellow-citizens."

The committee desired "that broadsides be placed conspicuously in the library, with lists of books in various arts and sciences." The trustees say they "have from the foundation of the library attempted, with more or less success, to carry into effect this idea." The committee recommend the issue of a "list of books on electricity as applied to the mechanical arts." The trustees say that "some months before the present committee was appointed they began the preparation of such a list." The more special catalogues of history, biography and travel, and of historical fiction, recommended by the committee have been for a long time in the course of preparation. The trustees make a long defence of their action in regard to the patents, and in reply to the fear that the room assigned in the new building will not be large enough, declare that it has twice as much floor-space as the present, and will accommodate 70,000 volumes, the present patent library consisting of 4500.

"The space which the committee suggests for use as consultation-rooms and private offices is that which is best adapted in the whole building for the public, and the trustees do not believe that the citizens would look with favor upon any scheme which would devote this valuable space, or indeed any space in the building, to private offices for patent lawyers."

The committee recommended that experts be

consulted in reference to the patent department. The trustees say that they "have at all times taken advantage of such expert advice as was available. In addition to such outside advice as is to be had, they have always at hand highly-trained library assistants, who are familiar with the needs of the department and who are in constant contact with those who use it. In discussing all matters connected with the new building it should always be borne in mind that probably no library on this continent, or, perhaps, in the world, has a more highly-trained or efficient staff than that of the Boston Public Library. Certainly no persons, not familiar from long experience with the peculiar needs of this institution, could on most questions be trusted to give sounder advice."

The new and magnificent Bates Hall is to be used solely for readers, and there will be an entirely separate room for the delivery-desk. The distinction of lower (or popular) and upper (or students') hall is to be given up, and all are to obtain books in one delivery-room. "The delivery-desk is calculated to provide for at least four times the present combined circulation of the upper and lower halls, and is capable of extension to three or four times its present proposed length." The trustees are of opinion that the new building is built for the accommodation of all the citizens of Boston, without reference to so-called "class" or condition; and they are further of the opinion that the new Bates Hall will not be too good for the users of the present lower hall, and that they would be false to their trust if they made any regulation which might result in an apparent separation of the poorer users of the library from the richer."

"In regard to the suggestion that the appointment of a librarian will relieve the trustees of unusual responsibility, they would say that whether or not a librarian is in charge of the building their responsibility remains the same. They are given by law the control and management of the library and all its branches, and their responsibility cannot be shifted to any other shoulders."

"The card catalogue is probably the best piece of work of its kind available for popular use."

"But the large volume of new books steadily flowing in necessitates an annual increment of cards, until the vast size of this catalogue gives rise to a serious problem, which must soon be definitely solved."

"Last year about 45,000 of the 93,000 new cards printed were added to what must have been, at a safe estimate, over a million already in the overcrowded drawers of the public card catalogue in Bates Hall."

"The serious objection to this immense collection of cards is, after all, not merely its size, but the fact that all sense of proportion and relative importance is lost. Under the heading Astronomy, for instance, a large number of important works will be found arranged among a still greater number of those of less consequence on the same subject. These minor works are of some value and should certainly be preserved, but it is evident that, as the catalogue increases, the difficulty of differentiating easily between

authoritative and less valuable works will become greater, and that a person consulting this subject will in most cases—as not infrequently happens now—become discouraged."

"It is beyond dispute that almost any form of print is a relief from this state of things, and several schemes for printing have suggested themselves to the trustees, but none is at present settled upon; for the least alteration in so well defined a method as must prevail in a large catalogue involves serious consideration."

"One plan is to print the titles in each drawer as it stands; in this way at least economy of space is gained. Another suggestion is to supply the public as rapidly as possible with sensible and untechnical finding-lists, and these undoubtedly will be issued to some extent in any event."

"It could be wished, however, that the public might feel inclined to avail itself with more readiness of the printed methods already at hand for its relief. The bulletins and special catalogues will lighten its burden considerably, if it will look into the merits of such aids."

"Any theory of cataloguing is, to a degree, always upon trial. It is by no means certain that the so-called dictionary system is the best, for the simple reason that the problem of indefinite extension has never yet become a menace. The experience of other large libraries is not, however, without its value; and it is safe to say that to a majority of such institutions, an author-catalogue, full and scholarly, is the basis upon which all other cataloguing efforts must rest. The British Museum is now printing its author-catalogue by letters, its manuscript catalogue-folio having become no longer practicable."

"This perfection of an author-catalogue does not in the least interfere with efforts towards expanding the usefulness of a subject-catalogue, but it certainly seems to point in the direction of a possible separation of these two distinct lines of work. The long-held notion that a dictionary system is capable of limitless expansion would seem to be no longer tenable. The portion devoted to author-titles must be extended if an arrangement in a single alphabet is still to prevail. If the British Museum, with 2,000,000 books, finds an author-catalogue practicable, this library, containing about 500,000 books, cannot afford to be too radical in its departures at present from accepted methods."

"The subject-catalogue, however, is a different matter; beyond a certain limit—which is fast approaching—the larger it is, the less useful it becomes. To overcome its manifold objections, several methods are under the consideration of the trustees. They are fully alive to the difficulties before the public and themselves in this matter, and feel that in this separation of the dictionary card-catalogue may lie the solution of a disturbing problem. So impressed are they with the necessity of affording some relief, that they propose during the coming year to make the experiment of printing class-lists of certain of the larger subjects represented in the catalogue and substituting them for the subject-reference cards, which may then be removed from the cases. The alphabetical author-list will of course remain undisturbed."



## PROPOSED BILL TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN BROOKLYN.

WE print herewith the text of the bill recently introduced into the Legislature of the State of New York providing for a public library for Brooklyn, as a curiosity in the way of what the fertile brain of the politician is capable of inventing for his own benefit rather than that of his constituency and the public generally. We understand that the bill will be amended and reconstructed into acceptable shape, failing in which it will not be allowed to pass:

AN ACT to authorize the City of Brooklyn to establish and to maintain a public library and reading-room in said city, and to provide for the payment therefor and for the maintenance thereof.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Brooklyn is hereby authorized and empowered to establish and to maintain in the manner hereinafter provided a public library and reading-room for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of said city.

SEC. 2. Whenever the Common Council, by its resolution, shall have determined that a public library and reading-room should be established and maintained under this act, the Mayor, Controller and City Clerk of said city are hereby authorized and empowered at any time, and from time to time, to issue and to sell bonds of the city of Brooklyn, signed, sealed, and countersigned as other bonds of said city, to be known as public library bonds of the city of Brooklyn. The said bonds may be issued for such time or times, not to exceed fifty years, and in such series, and at such rate of interest, not exceeding four per cent, per annum, as the said Mayor, Controller and City Clerk may determine. The aggregate of said bonds hereby authorized shall not exceed six hundred thousand dollars. None of said bonds shall be sold at less than par, and the proceeds of said bonds, as they may be sold from time to time, shall be paid into the city treasury to the credit of a fund, which is hereby created, to be known as "The Library Fund," to be paid out therefrom as required for the purchase of land for a suitable site, if that be necessary, and also for the erection and for the furnishing of a public library and reading-room, and the said proceeds shall be paid out of the city treasury for no other purposes whatever, and only upon vouchers certified by the Board of Directors of the said library and approved by the Mayor.

SEC. 3. For the purposes of maintaining said library and reading-room, the city of Brooklyn is hereby authorized through its proper boards and officers to annually levy a tax not less than forty thousand dollars in any one year, and the amount of said sum shall be estimated, determined, imposed and collected in the same manner as are other taxes in said city.

SEC. 4. Whenever the Common Council by its resolution shall have determined to establish and to maintain a public library and reading-room under this act, the Mayor of the said city shall ap-

point a board of nine directors for the same, and in addition to said number the Mayor of said city and the President of said Board of Aldermen shall, by virtue of their respective offices, be directors of the said public library and reading-room.

SEC. 5. The said directors so appointed shall hold office one-third for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years from the first day of February following their appointment. They shall take the constitutional oath of office, and at their first regular meeting, which shall be appointed by the Mayor, they shall cast lots for their respective terms, and annually thereafter the Mayor shall, before the first day of February of each year, appoint as before, three directors to take the place of the retiring directors, who shall hold office for three years and until their successors are appointed and have qualified. Vacancies in the said board arising from any cause shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment, and no director shall receive any compensation as such. The Mayor, by virtue of his office, shall be President of the said Board of Directors, and immediately after the appointment and qualification of the said directors they shall meet and organize by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. And they are hereby empowered to make and to adopt such by-laws, rules, and regulations for their guidance, and for the government of the library and reading-room as may be expedient and not inconsistent with this act. They shall have the exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys paid to the credit of "The Library Fund," of the purchase of any site, if necessary, and of the construction of any library building and of the supervision, care, and custody of the grounds, rooms, or buildings which may be constructed, leased, or set apart for that purpose. All moneys received for such library and reading room from any source whatever shall be paid into the treasury of said city to the credit of "The Library Fund," and shall be kept separate and apart from all other moneys of said city, and drawn upon by the proper officers of said city upon the vouchers of the said Library Board, approved by the Mayor. The said board shall have power to purchase or lease grounds or to use and to occupy any grounds now owned by the city of Brooklyn, or any of the departments thereof, not otherwise specifically dedicated to any other public use, and it shall have power to erect an appropriate building or buildings for the use of said library, provided, however, that all work done in the construction and fitting up of any library building or reading-room shall be done in accordance with the direction of said Library Board and under the supervision of the Commissioner of City Works, under contract, let to the lowest bidder under public competition, as other city work in said city. The said board shall have power to appoint a librarian and necessary assistants and other employees, and to affix their compensations. And said board shall also have power to remove such appointees.

SEC. 6. The library and reading-room established under this act shall be forever free for the use of the inhabitants of the city of Brooklyn,

always subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the directors may adopt, to render the use of said library and reading-room of the greatest benefit to the greatest number, and said board may exclude from the use of said library and reading-room any and all persons who shall wilfully violate said rules. The said board may also extend the privileges of said library and reading-room to persons residing outside of said city or to persons residing temporarily in said city, upon such terms and conditions as such board may from time to time by its regulations prescribe.

SEC. 7. The said Board of Directors, on or before the first Monday in December of each year, shall make an annual report to the Common Council, stating the condition of their trust on the first day of December in that year, the various sums of money received from the library fund and from all other sources, and how such moneys have been expended and for what purpose, the number of books and periodicals on hand, the number added by purchase, gift, or otherwise during the year, the number lost or missing, the number of visitors attending, the number of books lent and the general character and kind of such books, together with such other statistics, information, and suggestions as they may deem of general interest. All such portions of said report as relate to the receipt and expenditure of moneys, as well as the number of books on hand, books lost or missing and books purchased, shall be verified by affidavit.

SEC. 8. The Common Council of said city shall have power to pass ordinances imposing suitable penalties for the punishment of persons committing an injury upon such library, or the grounds, or other property thereof, and for injury to any book or failure to return any books belonging to such library.

SEC. 9. Any person, association, or corporation desiring to make donations of money, personal property, or real estate for the benefit of such library and reading-room shall have power to vest the title to the money or personal property or real estate so given in the city of Brooklyn in trust for the said library and reading-room, and the said city is hereby authorized to accept and to hold the same for the purposes of this act, according to the terms of the deed, gift, devise, or bequest of such property. But all powers, rights, and privileges by this section conferred shall be subject to the general restrictions of chapter three hundred and sixty of the laws of eighteen hundred and sixty, entitled "An act relating to wills." The real estate acquired for the purposes of the public library and reading-room, and actually used for such purposes, so long as it remains in such use, shall be exempt from taxation, and any personal estate bequeathed in furtherance of the purposes of this act shall not be subject to the provisions of chapter four hundred and eighty-three of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-five, entitled "An act to tax gifts, legacies, and collateral inheritances in certain cases," and the acts amendatory thereof.

SEC. 10. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

## American Library Association.

### THE CONFERENCE AT LAKEWOOD, N. J.

THE Conference of the American Library Association for 1892 will be held at the Laurel House, Lakewood, New Jersey, May 16 to 19, followed by a meeting in Baltimore on Friday, the 20th, and in Washington on Saturday, the 21st, where regular sessions cease.

Lakewood is beautifully situated in the great pine belt of New Jersey, 59 miles north of New York, equally distant from Philadelphia, and nine miles from the ocean.

Beside the annual papers, reports, and discussions, the Association's exhibit at the World's Fair, a question of vital importance to the Association, will be considered. It is desired that every member be in attendance.

The first session will be on Monday evening, May 16. It is hoped, however, that many of the members will arrive on the Saturday previous, so as to have the intervening time for discussions and enjoyment of the delightful surroundings.

On Thursday afternoon the members leave via Central of New Jersey and Baltimore & Ohio Railroads for Baltimore, arriving the same evening. Headquarters will be at the Carrolton Hotel. Friday one session will be held in Baltimore, the remainder of the day being spent in visiting libraries and interesting places. The party will leave Baltimore on Friday night for Washington, where the final sessions will be held on Saturday. Arrangements have been made for the party to stay at the Ebbitt House. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning will be spent here, and at noon departure taken for the Post-Conference Excursion. *Remember that regular sessions will be held at Baltimore and Washington, and that the Conference proper does not close till Saturday, May 21.*

### THE POST-CONFERENCE EXCURSION.

This covers a nine-days' trip from Washington to Gettysburg, thence to Luray Caverns, the Grottoes, Natural Bridge, stopping at Brandon Hotel, Basic City, and thence via Richmond to Virginia Beach, Old Point Comfort, and back to Washington, arriving in New York on Tuesday, May 31.

### TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS.

Rate of fare and one-third from all points covered by the New England Passenger Association, Trunk Line Association, and the Central Traffic Association will be secured to all members paying a fare of 75 cents or more on their going



journey. Full first-class fare must be paid from the point of starting to Lakewood. With the ticket a certificate should be secured, filled in and signed by the ticket agent, showing the route. The agents at all important stations are supplied with certificates. If the ticket agent at the local station is not so supplied he will advise the nearest station, where they can be obtained.

Special rates have been obtained from the New Jersey Central and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads for attendance at the meetings in Baltimore and Washington and return.

#### EXPENSES.

At Lakewood the rate is a special one of \$2.50 per day. From Lakewood to Washington, including hotel at Baltimore, transfers and all travelling expenses from Thursday night to 10 p.m. Friday, the expense will be \$8.75. At Washington the hotel rate is \$2.50 to \$3 per day, according to accommodations. The cost of the Post-Conference Excursion of nine days, including all travelling expenses for round trip from Washington to New York, is \$40.

Further information will be given in the next number of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, and in circulars which will be sent to interested parties. Addresses should be sent to H. E. Davidson, Assistant Secretary Library Bureau, Boston, for details of information. We desire to record as early as possible the intention of members. Indications point to the largest convention ever held.

FRANK P. HILL, *Secretary*.

### State Library Associations.

#### CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE first annual meeting was held in the Public Library, Bridgeport, Feb. 22. The President, Prof. Addison Van Name, of Yale University Library, in the chair. After short addresses of welcome by Mayor Marigold and Mr. Charles Sherwood, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, the President reported the library progress of Connecticut during the last few months. Sharon has a \$50,000 endowment and \$15,000 for a building, plans for which were exhibited. Mystic is to have a brick building; Ansonia has one with a library all ready to open; Shelton has a bequest of \$2000; Rockville one of \$5000; Granby has made its library free, in addition to the Cossitt Library, in North Granby; Berlin has opened one in a new building, and Seymour has appointed a committee for founding one. Prof. Van Name urged the co-operation of town libraries in gather-

ing materials for local history and preserving files of local newspapers, of which there are probably a hundred in Connecticut of permanent interest and value.

The treasurer reported 66 members, and \$3.36 on hand.

Mr. Clarence Deming, of New Haven, spoke on the "Reading of our farming communities," saying that free libraries do their best work in towns where there are no social barriers between the villages and the farms, and that one reason why so few books are read in the country is that good weekly and religious papers have taken the place of the old "county paper," full of gossip and partisan politics.

Mr. Walter Learned, of New Haven, read a paper on "Public libraries and light literature," taking the ground that it is better for the librarians to go as far down in furnishing books as Mary J. Holmes and Mrs. Southworth, rather than drive readers away to buy such books as they can find on railway news-stands and in the poorer class of bookstores. Discussions followed both of these papers.

At 2 o'clock the annual election was held. Last year's officers were re-elected, except the Assistant Secretary, whose place is filled by Miss Mary A. Richardson, of New London. Miss Richardson read a paper on a "Librarian's work in the South," telling of her experience among the 600 students of Atlanta University, who are in all grades, from primary to college. She found them eager to read biography, history, and poetry, and to take small libraries sent by Northern Sunday-schools when they went to teach in the summer. She believes that public libraries would settle many vexed questions in the South.

Mr. Borden, of the Young Men's Institute, New Haven, showed a scheme of classification for arranging and preserving photographs in libraries. After a discussion on the books most useful to librarians and a vote of thanks to the Bridgeport Library the meeting adjourned.

#### PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY CLUB.

THE Club held its first meeting on Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, with Mr. J. G. Barnwell, librarian of the Phila. Library, in the chair, and Thos. L. Montgomery, Wagner Free Inst. of Science, acting as Secretary.

A committee was appointed to nominate officers, to report at the meeting in March. The third Monday in March was fixed as the time of meeting, and the place left to the Nominating Committee.

The Club proposes to have meetings in Nov., Jan., Feb., March, and May, and to combine the State Association with the features of the N. Y. Library Club.

The Club has 38 members to begin with, and this number will be increased to 50 before the March meeting.

J: L. MONTGOMERY.

### Library Clubs.

#### NEW YORK LIBRARY CLUB.

##### FEBRUARY MEETING.

A REGULAR meeting of the New York Library Club was held at the Young Men's Christian Association Library, 502 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, on Thursday, February 11, 1892, at 2.30 o'clock. About 40 members of the Club were present.

In the absence of the President, Mr. Frank P. Hill, Vice-President Mr. Reuben B. Poole presided.

By the action of the Executive Committee, it has been determined that if members of the Club fail to pay their dues after two years, notices of dues having been regularly sent to them by the Treasurer, their names shall be dropped from the list of membership.

The question for discussion at this meeting, Catalogues, and the best mode of making known to the public the resources of a library, was then taken up for discussion.

Mr. Willis K. Stetson, of New Haven, was called upon to open the discussion. He said: "I have not prepared a very long paper, as it is a subject upon which all of the members must have spent considerable thought. The question of catalogues has not been settled in all libraries, so it seems worth while to discuss it and get clearer views on the matter. I have limited my thoughts to free public libraries. I shall speak of a few methods that are used in making known to the public the resources of the library. One method was discussed at the last meeting of the Club—admission to the shelves. Among other methods are posted lists of books, lists printed in local papers, and printed bulletins of recent additions to libraries. The latter are very useful in increasing the circulation of a library. In my own library we print two bulletins a year. I have made a careful comparison and find that they have materially increased its circulation. They reach that part of the public that reads new books; but it seems to me that this is not a very large class. There are other classes pursuing the study of specific subjects. They need a catalogue to find the books they want. They require the card catalogue, as it is the only catalogue that can be kept up to date. Another class reads for recreation and amusement. The card catalogue will hardly serve for this class of readers. It is desirable, then, to have lists of books suited to the needs of all our readers. This means that in the most libraries printed catalogues will be found necessary. What kind shall we have? Cannot we print a catalogue and re-

strict it in its size and cost, so that the library can afford to print it and the people to buy it? Cannot we rely on the card catalogue and bulletins to supply the demands of the general readers, and print a special catalogue for the limited demand of special students? We must look at this matter from an economical standpoint."

Mr. R. B. Poole then continued the discussion and said: "This opens up a very valuable point which ought to be fully discussed. We hope to hear from many of our lady members to-day. This is a very serious question. In my own library we have a manuscript catalogue. The entries are first written on slips and pasted into 26 folio volumes; in form, it is of the genus of the card catalogue. It is a dictionary catalogue. It seems to me that it does not always answer the demands made upon it. We have many art students who come to the library to study. All the books that they want are arranged under the heading FINE ARTS. It seems to be difficult, notwithstanding, to suit all our art students.

"We have a large number of medical students in our library. If we had a special catalogue of medicine it would present some facilities that our dictionary catalogue does not present. I think that Mr. Stetson has brought out a good idea in his article in the LIBRARY JOURNAL. We should try to include economy with usefulness. Many of us cannot print our catalogues; besides, it is not satisfactory, as the printed catalogue does not keep up to date. If we could get up some scheme by which we might print special lists, it would prove of great advantage."

Miss Plummer, speaking of the Pratt Institute, said: "We have no printed catalogue. We have special class lists or shelf-lists which are type-written. This is the solution we have adopted in the place of the subject catalogue."

Mr. Peoples then spoke as follows: "I think it must be conceded that a catalogue of some kind must be had. How many of your patrons use the catalogue? Few of our members use our catalogues, and I think we are quite free in supplying them. They get ahead of me in asking for new books, even though I try to keep in advance of them. We have a card catalogue in our library. I call it an alphabetical classed catalogue. We issue manuscript accession lists printed on the Edison mimeograph, and issue them as often as we get titles enough to fill up a sheet. We also issue a yearly bulletin and place the price at 5 cents, in order to restrict the abuse incident to a free distribution. We never get back the cost of it. The printing alone costs us over 10 cents a copy. I do not hesitate to say that we shall not get back one-tenth of the cost. Comparatively few people use catalogues. I believe in making every effort to acquaint our patrons with our books, but I get tired in trying to make them known. We try to get them to use our old books. We have no difficulty in getting them to read the new ones."

Mr. S. Berry then spoke of his experience. "We have printed lists and got back considerably more than the cash outlay, but we do not take into consideration the labor involved in preparing the copy for the printer. I should take Mr. Stetson's ground and have half the number of

titles in the same space with explanatory notes, rather than longer entries without notes. I have tried the plan of special lists and have noted that they increased our circulation. They have thus served a very valuable purpose. Our circulation nearly doubled six months after their issue. Special lists of books printed in our bulletins, and also separately printed on sheets, have very much increased the circulation of such books. I had a request for such lists, and my experience has shown their value.

"I believe that a select list of books taken from almost any library, with explanatory matter, would prove largely useful. I have tried to use this plan in our art catalogue by adding critical notices. Catalogues with critical notices are furnished by the publishers; they are cut out and pasted on cards, and are thus made very useful. I have used the "contents" clipped from such catalogues; they go very far towards increasing the usefulness of a card. The criticisms that the publisher puts into his catalogue are just what we want in ours."

*Mr. Poole* at this point asked *Mr. Peoples* if he printed catalogues now?

*Mr. Peoples* said: "It is our purpose to issue a catalogue sometime in the near future."

*Mr. Bardwell* then resumed the discussion and said: "We published at one time an annotated bulletin. We took critical notices from the *Nation*, *Critic*, and other papers. I know of people who have called for books at our library before they were published. When we first started out we had only a shelf inventory, but before the catalogue was printed it was nearly worn out. We now publish a yearly bulletin. We used to print it four times a year. We have a printed catalogue, supplemented by a card catalogue, which covers about ten years' time."

*Mr. Poole*.—Do you intend to print the card catalogue?

*Mr. Bardwell*.—Yes, we intend to print it. We have many who make use of it now.

*Mr. Poole*.—Much has been said in praise of *Mr. Noyes'* catalogue. What is your opinion of it?

*Mr. Bardwell*.—I like it very much, much better than *Mr. Cutter's* catalogue. It is very readily comprehended by general readers, and its general plan seems to be much admired.

*Mr. Peoples*.—I think it has been sold much more generally than any other catalogue. Would you kindly give us some figures as to this point?

*Mr. Bardwell*.—It cost about \$9000 to print the two editions which have been published, and we have sold about 1000 copies at \$5 each. We have thus recovered some \$5000 or \$6000 out of it. No other library that I know of has adopted a catalogue similar to it.

*Mr. Stevens*, of the Railroad Men's Library, then gave his experience in printing as follows: "We have a small library, but have to push it just the same. We thought a year ago it was necessary to make it distinctively a railroad men's library. I issued a printed list and called it a Railroad List for Railroad Men. I gave a few points in it as to the use of the library. I divided it into books for engineers, firemen, etc.; with each entry I gave a brief extract from some

review, as I was not an expert railroad man myself. A year ago we had 16 volumes of this class of books; this year we have 50 or 60. Our circulation has increased 186 per cent. Our books are bought on a requisition, as '10 good railroad books' and the like. We have a dictionary catalogue and expect to reprint it in the near future, adding to it the books we have bought in the last three years. We hope thereby to make our little catalogue better than it has ever been before."

*Miss See*, from New Brunswick, said: "We use advertising to help us out. One of the editors of our papers is much interested in the library and prints in his paper lists of new books every month. I have wanted to ask if this would take the place of bulletins."

*Mr. Cole* in reply suggested that in such cases, when the lists were in type, they could be reprinted in circular or poster form at a very slight expense. With a suitable heading these could be used for distribution among the patrons of the library and also posted in the library.

*Mr. Bardwell*.—We have lists printed in three or four of the papers every week. It helps very much towards increasing our circulation.

*Mr. Berry*.—People cut these lists out of the papers and carry them in their hats or pockets, and sometimes come to our library and ask if we have these new books.

*Mr. Peoples*.—I should be glad if the New York papers would take enough interest to print our lists free.

*Miss Plummer*.—We have printed lists and have sold them all, and are now preparing to print more new ones.

*Mr. Poole* asked if special lists were made out for the different classes in the Pratt Institute.

*Miss Plummer* replied that they had.

*Mr. Poole*.—We post lists in the class-rooms, also in the library, on the fine arts, biblical literature, science, etc. This is in the line of furnishing special lists.

*Mr. Berry*.—We do about the same thing. I made special lists for mechanical books, machinists' books, etc. It drew not only the attention of our members, who saw we had books they wanted to use, but it has also drawn new members to us.

*Mr. Baker* then arose and said: "I came in late and did not get the whole of the discussion. Very little or nothing has been done in the way of making special lists in our library. We hope to do this, however, when we get to the right state. Our work has been of such a character that we were not justified in going into this work. When our library is tolerably complete in certain branches it has been my purpose to issue special lists. Then we think they will have some value as bibliographical aids to other libraries. I have thought that large libraries owe it to themselves as well as to other libraries to publish such lists. We shall soon be in a condition to issue a list of books on architecture. This we shall do for our special collection on this subject. This will, I think, make an octavo volume as large as one of the volumes of the Astor Library Catalogue. I hope in due time to also issue lists on the labor question, finance, taxation, and such special ques-

tions as come up from time to time. The more you can show the people to get them interested in the exact thing you have in your library, the better. I did not come in in time to hear what has been said as to the best form of catalogue to be used for this purpose."

*Mr. Poole.* — Mr. Peoples says that his members do not use his catalogue as much as he could wish.

*Mr. Baker.* — Our catalogue is much more used than formerly. I can see that the members of Mr. Peoples' library do not use the catalogue as much as would be to their advantage. Our work has been to simplify our catalogue, and as a result it is much more used now than before this was done.

*Mr. Bardwell.* — Do you have any one to explain your catalogue?

*Mr. Baker.* — We have some one who can explain it near it most of the time. A catalogue is like everything else in a library; no one knows the catalogue as well as the person who has made it. No matter how simple it is there should be some one to explain it.

*Mr. Peoples.* — The catalogue is absolutely necessary for our own use. If it were not I do not think I should make one.

*Mr. Baker.* — We print bulletins with a line to an entry. I think many libraries make a mistake in printing such elaborate bulletins. We insert no bibliographical information. The Boston Public Library, Harvard and Cornell Universities print elaborate bulletins. They look very nice and seem very valuable; but if you file them away in your pigeon-holes for a year or so and then want to get at something in them, how are you going to do it?

*Mr. Stevens.* — Has any one ever printed slips telling how to use the library?

*Mr. Berry.* — We issue something of this kind printed in our bulletins, and have had them separately printed to hand to people passing through the building. We propose to do something of the kind again soon.

*Mr. Poole.* — We print something of this kind in our *Association Notes*.

*Mr. Berry.* — The *Literary News* prints the bookseller's name on copies of the Christmas number and provides them in large numbers for booksellers.

At this point the discussion became very general and was taken part in by many of the speakers already quoted.

*Mr. Bardwell*, on being asked to describe the working of his "Selected Library," said: "This library of 2500 volumes was begun last September. The public seem to enjoy browsing among its books very much. The library is selected on many different subjects, and is classified on the shelves. It has certainly been very popular. The books are not supposed to leave the library, but about 20 volumes are missing. This library is made up of duplicates of the books in the general library. Most people speak of it with great satisfaction. It includes about 500 volumes of fiction by standard authors."

*Mr. Poole* then announced an exhibition of art books, to take place at his library on Washington's Birthday, tickets to which he kindly

offered to the members of the Club. The exhibition will last from 2-9:30 p.m.

*Mr. Peoples.* — We are going to give an exhibition of our illustrated books. During our opening exercises there were some illustrated books put out on the tables, and it was observed that more attention was given to these books than to almost anything else in the library, and it was thought wise to let the public know what books of this nature the library contains. Our exhibition takes place on the 17th inst. from 1-10 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all present to come. We keep a good supply of books on our desk, from which a great many take an extra book. I once caught a lady going out with 8 books. The wife of a literary man used to come to the library about three times a week. We caught her carrying away books and decided to exclude her from the library.

*Mr. Baker.* — Mr. Peoples seems to imply that the ladies are the only ones who are guilty of this flagrant conduct. Looking over the Harvard report I find that they are suffering from this trouble, which is supposed to be attributed to masculine hands.

*Mr. Peoples.* — The Mercantile Library of Philadelphia, which has boasted of its liberty in allowing patrons to go to the shelves, has been obliged to exclude the public from its shelves.

*Mr. Poole.* — Our library has recently had some trouble with a man calling himself a son of Dr. Heber Newton. I am informed that he has since been even arrested as insane.

*Miss Mosman*, of the Pratt Institute, then gave an account of the losses at the Pratt Institute. The losses began as long ago as last September. Two volumes disappeared from the reference department. Two months afterwards two volumes more disappeared. We were then on our guard. We narrowed our suspicions down to one or two. The guilty party placed himself in our hands, and by watching him we caught him in the act. All but two of the 15 missing books were found in his room.

*Dr. W. F. Poole's* experience in Cincinnati with a minister of that city was cited to show that all persons must be allowed the privilege of a library with great caution.

*Mr. Poole* then spoke of the great interest with which he had listened to a lecture on the "Genealogy of a Book" by Wm. C. Prime, recently delivered before the Grolier Club, and suggested that the Club take up for discussion some question like this: "The History of Writing or Engraving; the Making of a Manuscript," etc. This was thrown out as a suggestion for some future meeting.

The Club then adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on the second Thursday in March (10th) at the Library of the Young Woman's Christian Association, No. 7 East 15th Street, New York. The question for discussion will be "Library Development in New York City."

After the adjournment many of the members present spent a pleasant hour in inspecting the building and rooms of the Y. M. C. A.

GEO. WATSON COLE, Sec.



## CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB.

THE third regular meeting was held at the Newberry Library, Thursday, March 10, 7:30 P.M.

*Dr. Poole* in the chair.

*Miss Dexter* then presented the following resolutions on the death of Judge Wm. H. Bradley, which were unanimously adopted and forwarded to the family:

## A MEMORIAL.

We, the members of the Chicago Library Club, pay our tribute of respect and honor to the memory of the Hon. William H. Bradley.

We feel that we have lost a wise counsellor and a friend who as a trustee of the Newberry Library would have assisted us much in promoting the interests of the club. We deeply regret his absence as a member of the club from our meeting to-night, he having expressed his intention of being with us.

To his family we extend our warmest sympathy in their bereavement.

Resolved, that a copy of these minutes be forwarded to them.

The topic for discussion was "How to read and how not to read."

*Dr. Poole* opened the discussion, and spoke as follows:

"There is a common opinion that people who read a good deal know a good deal. This may be true or may not be true, for it all depends on the effects of reading. I call that reading beneficial which makes us think, sets us to do our own thinking. In reading books we retain but little of the author's thoughts, but we do retain a good deal of our own thinking set in motion by the author. There is a great deal of poor reading done in this world. If there was less reading done in a better manner the world and the readers would be better off for it. The old saying: 'Beware of the man of one book,' is as true to-day as ever. This means that the man has mastered some one author. He has read that one author until he is an authority on the man.

"Psychologists say we learn more in the first seven years of our life than all the rest put together. This is because of the close attention and observation peculiar to children. But we cannot learn everything from observation—we must have recourse to books. I am constantly asked 'What shall I read?' My answer is, 'Read what interests you. Baseball, fishing, Italy Switzerland, witchcraft, philosophy, or what not. Pick out something you are interested in, and master it completely.'

"Learn to read rapidly; an octavo book should not occupy us more than one evening; read a whole page at a glance, as a musician reads a score. Some people think you must read a book from title-page to index, but it is not necessary. Begin anywhere. Dr. Johnson was an omnivorous reader, and used to begin at the back end and read backwards.

"Another thing about books. A person who does any reading should know what books have been written on his subject—should know somewhat of bibliography. I am glad to know that this subject is being considered in some of our leading colleges, as Johns Hopkins University, Univer- of Michigan, and Cornell University.

"As a rule, college students, teachers, and high-school graduates do not know the names or use of any of our commonest reference-books. Not one in 20 knows what Allibone's Dictionary is; scarcely any more of the high-school scholars in this city know what Poole's Index is.

"But I have already taken up much time, and we would like to hear from Mr. Nelson on the subject."

*Mr. Nelson.*—The thought occurred to me while Dr. Poole was talking about reading an octavo book in one evening, that some one would say, "You have only skimmed that book," but a fitting answer would be, "Yes, but I have gotten the cream." It is my experience that cataloguers themselves do not know how to use books. I think, as Dr. Poole does, that courses of bibliography should be established in high schools and colleges. When I was at the head of the Howard Library, in New Orleans, I used to address the high-school pupils on the subject of reading, and was, of course, much gratified to find they inquired at the library for books which I mentioned. Three of the pupils won gold medals by the aid of the library, and came to the library to personally thank the staff for their assistance, without which they could not have won their honors.

*Miss Clarke* asked Dr. Poole what he thought about reading papers and periodicals. One librarian whom she remembered was very angry at people coming to his library to read papers.

*Dr. Poole.*—I believe in people reading what interests them—papers, periodicals, or novels. I acted on this plan and furnished my children all the novels they wanted. I was sure they could get over it in time, and they did, and came out with a good vocabulary. Macaulay and Jeremy Bentham both were forbidden by their fathers to read novels, and the consequence was both disobeyed and read them secretly.

A few words about courses of reading. There are many noted books, such as "Pycroft's Course," "Kent's Course," etc. But all such helps are artificial and tend to mechanical drudgery. I never knew any one to read by course and know anything when they got through. It is like pouring sand through a sieve: it wears out the sieve and no sand stays in it.

*Mr. Noble.*—About reading a subject thoroughly. I found I had to read all around a subject, on all sides, until I had contradicted myself two or three times and the subject attained the proportions of a sphere. Ruskin somewhere says: "Soak yourself in the vat of the author." It is the best thing for a young man to do to give himself up for a time to the influence of a great man like Ruskin or Carlyle. He will be a tenth-rate Carlyle or Ruskin, but will in time return to his individuality vastly bettered for his reading. Another thing, read with attention and concentration, and make the subject real to yourself. See it as the author sees it. "Have clear-cut, definite conceptions in your reading," was the advice of one of our professors in Amherst College.

*Miss Crandall.*—I wish to dissent from some things said. How is it possible to soak yourself in the vat of your author and at the same time do the skipping? I think you should get the idea of

the author in his own way. When reading to get information on a familiar subject one may be able to take in a page at a glance, but I do not think it possible to gain any true idea of a work of literary art, as such, in that fashion. It makes me impatient when people turn to the end of a novel to see how it is going "to turn out." It seems unfair to the author. As to skipping, Bacon sums it all up when he says: "Some books are to be tasted," and some to be "chewed and digested."

*Dr. Williams.*—I am glad there is some one else heretical in doctrine. I was afraid I should have to stand alone. I think there are two ways of reading, for business and pleasure, and there are different methods suited to different kinds of reading. I have had to review an octavo book in an evening, and have felt like the man who had to make the after-dinner speech and he did not enjoy his dinner at all. So when I had written the notice I felt that I had not enjoyed the book.

Further remarks were made by Dr. Wise, Dr. Pietsch, Mr. Merrill, Miss Crandall, Mr. Reade, and Miss Timmerman, and the subject was laid over for discussion at the next meeting of the Club.

#### THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIBRARY CLUB.

THE Southern California Library Club\* held its regular meeting March 3 in the office of the librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library. There were present the librarians of the Riverside and San Buena Ventura Public Libraries, teachers of the grammar, high and normal schools of Los Angeles, and of the University of Southern California, beside the members of the staff and training class of the Los Angeles Public Library.

The papers were the most interesting of any heretofore presented for the consideration of the club, and dealt with the province of the library in furnishing supplementary reading for the schools.

Miss Mary Foy, in her paper on general supplementary reading for the grammar grades, urged very strongly the early formation, in the pupil, of a taste for mythology from the reading of Baring-Gould's "Myths of the Middle Ages," Goethe's "Earl King," Browning's "Pied Piper of Hamelin," Lanier's "King Arthur" and Lang's "Blue and Red Fairy-Books," the study of which not only plays a very active part in mind development, but also stores the mind of a child with a knowledge which must in after years prove a source of delight and profit to him.

Miss L. A. Packard, Principal of the Los Angeles High School, in treating the subject of supplementary reading on literature, outlined the work of the high school, and showed the incalculable value of the side-lights which may be thrown on the study by an early acquaintance with the standard authors of our own and of all other countries for a just appreciation and enjoyment of their work.

Mrs. H. C. Wadleigh, of the University of Southern California, followed with the subject of history, and clothed its dry bones with such an attractive covering, that one almost felt inclined

to resign the delights of cataloguing, classification, etc., and devote one's self to the study of history alone.

The paper on supplementary reading on geography, by Miss Alice Merritt, of the Normal School, called attention particularly to the many interesting pen-pictures which have appeared on the pages of our standard magazines during the past few years; also to Stanford's "Compendium of Geography," which not only is a most fascinating series, but possesses also the indispensable, but so often lacking, quality of truthfulness. The teacher must be a poor one indeed who fails to make the study of geography an interesting one with such a wealth of material to assist her in the work.

A most enthusiastic discussion followed the reading of each paper, and no one could help feeling, more than ever before, that the library and public schools must ever go hand in hand in their work of education and cultivation.

All papers read before the Club are filed by the Secretary, it being the intention to publish them at some future time in the form of aids and guides.

The programme for the April meeting will consist of papers on "Classification and its Application to Libraries" and on the great American reference libraries.

ESTELLE HAINES, Sec.

#### Librarians.

BRADLEY, W: H., one of the two trustees of the Newberry Library, died March 1 of apoplexy. He was born Nov. 29, 1816, in Ridgeway, Conn., where his ancestors had resided for several generations. His grandfather, W: Burr Bradley, was an able lawyer, a colonel of a Connecticut regiment in the Revolutionary War, and because of personal friendship he was twice appointed Marshal of the District of Connecticut by President Washington. His father, Judge Jesse Smith Bradley, was a man of scholarly tastes and great probity of character.

After full preparation for a course at Yale College Mr. Bradley, then 21 years of age, removed to Galena, Ill., and was Clerk of the County Court and then of the Circuit Court until 1855, after which he removed to Chicago and became Clerk of the Circuit Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

He was also President of the West Division Railway, a Lincoln Park Commissioner, one of the founders and the first Vice-President of the Union League Club, Vice-President of the National Bank of Illinois, and President of the Chicago Relief and Aid Society. He leaves a widow and three children.\*

The staff of the Newberry Library passed resolutions of sorrow, speaking of his wise forethought, catholicity of judgment, and untiring watchfulness and care. "To each of us he was a just, kind, and courteous friend, approachable, genial, and sympathetic in personal intercourse, watchful alike of the interests of the great trust committed to him and of the personal success and

\* The Club is not a State organization, but includes only members from Southern California.



welfare of all engaged in the service of the library."

Dr. Poole was chairman of the meeting and C. A. Nelson offered the resolution. Miss Edith Clark and Miss Mabel McIlvaine spoke of Mr. Bradley's deep interest in the individuals composing the staff of the library.

DWIGHT, Theodore Frelinghuysen, has been appointed librarian of the Boston Public Library. Mr. Dwight was born at Auburn, N. Y., in 1846. His father was a missionary. In 1870 Theodore F. Dwight was in a San Francisco banking house, having gone there from the East to take what had been represented to him by friends as a particularly advantageous position. He was even at that time widely known as a book-lover and book-collector, and nearly all of his spare time was in requisition for bibliographical work of some kind. In the early '70s, when Mr. Dwight was about 25 years of age, he decided to devote himself to books professionally and went to New York. There he at once found a confidential position in a publishing house. Remaining there for a year or two he left to become the secretary and librarian of the historian, George Bancroft.

Mr. Dwight's work in Washington with Mr. Bancroft was highly commended. It brought him into acquaintance with those having charge of the State Department Library and government archives. The post of librarian of the State Department having been vacated, it was offered to Mr. Dwight. He accepted it and held the place for 13 years, through all changes of administration. During his term of office the duties of keeper of the archives, until then kept separate, were added to his regular ones as librarian, and this double set of duties he discharged to universal satisfaction. He was sent by the department to Europe to inspect and report on the Franklin papers, which Mr. Stevens, of London, proposed to sell to the United States.

Subsequently a flattering offer was made to him by the Adams family to take charge of the family archives at Quincy, and he resigned his government position.

HAMPTON, John L., has been appointed by the Supreme Court Assistant Law Librarian, vice E. B. Kinkead, resigned. Mr. Hampton is an educated man, having been a teacher in the Northwestern Normal University, at Ada. He was Secretary of the State Decennial Board of Equalization that met last year. He is a young and very popular man, and his appointment meets with general approbation.

PROF. HOSMER's acceptance of the librarianship of Minn. P. L. has excited the surprise of many—of most people—in St. Louis, and incidentally has given them a new idea of the dignity and importance of the librarian's position. People have thought that a professor was "a bigger man" than a librarian, and are amazed to find the occupant of a college professorship glad to give it up to become a librarian.

STEINER, Dr. Lewis H., librarian of the Enoch Pratt Library, and for 12 years member of the Maryland State Senate from Frederick County,

died Feb. 18 at his residence, on Eutaw Street, in the 65th year of his age.

Dr. Steiner was born in Frederick City, Md., in 1827. His parents were Christian and Rebecca Steiner, and his family, of German origin, was one of the oldest in the county. His great-grandfather, John Steiner, was born about the year 1750, in Frederick County. He commanded a company of militia against the Indians in 1775. Dr. Steiner was graduated by and received his degree of A.B. from Marshall College, Mercersburg, Pa., in 1846, and his M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, in 1849. In the same year he commenced the practice of his profession in Frederick.

In 1852 he came to Baltimore, and for a while lectured in Dr. J. R. W. Dunbar's private medical institute. During the following nine years he lectured in a number of colleges. He was Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in Columbia College, and of Chemistry and Pharmacy in the National Medical College at Washington. He was Lecturer on Applied Chemistry at the Medical Institute, and Lecturer on Chemistry and Natural Philosophy in the College of St. James, and Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College of Pharmacy.

In 1861 Dr. Steiner returned to Frederick City. At the outbreak of the war he took an active interest in the Union cause, assisting in raising troops, and as soon as the Sanitary Commission was organized he was appointed Chief Inspector in the Army of the Potomac. In this service he labored indefatigably until the close of the war. He took entire charge of its benevolent work, saved the soldiers as much as possible from exposure, and cared for them in every way in his power. When slavery was abolished and the Freedman's Bureau organized, he interested himself in the establishment of colored schools all over Maryland, and served as President of the School Board for nearly three years.

In politics Dr. Steiner was always a staunch Republican. In 1876 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati, which nominated Mr. Hayes. He was elected to the State Senate in 1871 from Frederick County, having a majority of 389 votes. At this session of the Legislature he was the only Republican member of the Senate. He was re-elected in 1875 and 1879, and during that time was the Republican leader of the State Senate. He was again a candidate in 1883, but was defeated by a very small vote.

When he was 24 years of age he published his first book, a little work upon "Physical Science." He published many volumes afterwards, mainly scientific works. Among those of a more popular character which attracted attention were "The Marvellous in Modern Thought," "A Report," containing a diary of the Confederate occupation of Maryland; "Abraham Lincoln," an address, and "The Story of Father Miller," translated from the German of Franz Hoffman.

After 1855 Dr. Steiner was connected with the editorship, either as principal or assistant, of the *American Medical Monthly*, and was a frequent contributor to the *Mercersburg Quarterly Review*, *Southern Quarterly*, and other periodicals.

In 1869 he received the honorary degree of A.M. from Yale College. When the Enoch Pratt Free Library was established, six years ago, Dr. Steiner was elected librarian, and in this position he found a wide field for his talents.

He leaves a wife, three daughters, and two sons. One son, Bernard, was graduated recently from Johns Hopkins University, and at present is filling the place of a professor at Yale College.

STEINER, Prof. Bernard C., has been chosen librarian of the Enoch Pratt F. L., Baltimore, in place of Dr. Steiner, deceased. The *Baltimore American* of March 1 contains his portrait.

### Library Economy and History.

#### GENERAL.

WHITTIER, J. H. State aid to libraries. (In *Rochester [N. H.] Courier*.) 3 col.

Mr. Whittier, a member of the newly created Library Commission, says: "The unequal distribution of wealth must necessarily result in inequality of taxation, and it is often the case, especially in the sparsely settled districts, that those upon whom the burden bears most heavily have accorded them the poorest privileges. Now if in the distribution of State aid a plan could be devised to extend a helping hand to those towns which have been left behind in the race for wealth, and which can in many instances ill afford to provide proper educational facilities, such a distribution would most nearly meet the necessities of the case. In a word, the solution of the question lies in the practical application of the principle of extending aid where aid is needed, and withholding it from the more prosperous communities in the centres of population, where the people can well afford to provide themselves with adequate library privileges. We believe the carrying out of such a policy to be in the line of true economy and in accordance with the principles of right and justice.

"The objection would doubtless be raised that it would be unjust to tax the cities and larger towns to assist the rural sections, but as long as our centres of population are drawing from the country the best of their young men and women, men who are constantly in the front rank in the various branches of city industries, as long as the country town is constantly furnishing brains to help run the factories and carry on trade in our cities and villages, just so long will the balance remain with the rural communities, and if now and then a small fraction of that indebtedness can be cancelled, and in a way to improve the educational advantages of the beneficiaries, who will raise a word of objection? Who will say that the inhabitants of our hill towns shall not be aided in securing to themselves the advantages of a public library even if the city and large town have to bear a part of the burden? Indeed, we would venture to say that, were the whole property of every citizen taxed as near to its actual value as is the property of the farmer, the result would justify the statement that under the existing order of

things there lies the danger of not doing enough rather than that of doing too much. Every citizen is interested in the question of taxation for the support of pauperism and for the suppression of crime. Should not every citizen be interested to advance the cause of popular education as one of the most potent means at the command of the State for the supplanting of ignorance, and thus lessening the evils that tend to impose the burdens on the taxpayer?"

#### LOCAL.

*Astoria, Ore.* Articles incorporating the Astoria Public Library were filed in the office of the Secretary of State, Feb. 10, by Anna M. Fulton, President; Alma A. Rogers, Vice-President; Callie Brodie, Secretary. The estimated value of property on hand is \$800.

*Boston P. L.* (40th rpt.) Added 20,256; total 556,283; home use 902,598; lib. use, including periodicals, 909,834.

*Charlotte (N. C.) L. A.* The meeting of the members of the library, held Feb. 12, was largely attended. Dr. George W. Graham, President of the Association, presided. Mr. John Walker, Secretary and Treasurer, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to increase the usefulness of the library and extend the membership. Mr. Walker said the present membership is 182. The library consists of 1191 volumes, 394 of which were given, and 36 magazines subscribed for. Since September (the time when the library was opened) 1402 books have been read. It was suggested by Mr. Walker that the President and librarian be appointed a committee to solicit subscribers to the library.

*Chicago, P. L.* Added 20,078; total 166,475; issued 1,290,514 including 3746 issued to public schools, and 294,880 issued through the 24 delivery stations. 4 delivery wagons are now required to carry the books to and from the stations, and two deliveries a day are made to each station. In the main library 50 persons are employed in the day service and 12 in the evening service; the total number employed is 89, with a pay-roll of \$51,440.54.

The Board of Trustees of the Public Library adopted, Feb. 13, the design submitted by Messrs. Shapley, Rutan & Coolidge, of Boston, for the new library building to be erected in Dearborn Park, on the lake front. There were twelve sets of plans submitted by as many different architects.

The committee says: "After as careful and painstaking consideration of all the plans we have been able to give, the committee by a unanimous vote considers plan No. 1, designed by Charles A. Coolidge, as the most satisfactory. It is in complete accord with the interior plans; it most satisfactorily affords the greatest amount of light to the interior; it is simple and economic in construction; it is dignified and imposing in style, and happily indicates the character and purposes of the building.

"Mr. Coolidge stated to the committee that he had made a careful estimate of the cost of the building, according to his plans, from estimates of builders and contractors, and was of

the opinion that it could be constructed for \$1,250,000, not including, however, the cost of necessary machinery and fixtures.

"The selected design represents a massive building of the Roman classic style of architecture, with the principal façade extending 400 feet on Michigan Avenue, the Washington and Randolph Street sides being 140 feet long and the height 90 feet. The grand entrance will be on Washington Street. It will have an imposing arch having a depth of eight feet. The Randolph Street entrance will be more severely classic, possessing massive columns and entablature, which will form the roof of the portico."

*Cincinnati (O.) P. L.* The *Enquirer* says: "It looks as if there is going to be a big fight between the library trustees and the Board of Education over the attempt of the former to become independent of the latter in the control of the Public Library. At the last meeting of the Board of Education a fighting committee was appointed to go to Columbus to oppose the passage of the new bill to divorce the library trustees from the School Board. Feb. 9, the Board of Library Trustees met in secret session in the librarian's private office. It was given out after the meeting adjourned that the trustees had merely held an informal meeting, at which they voted to amend their proposed bill by adding 'a provision subjecting the annual levies of that Board to the action of the Board of Review, as all other city boards are subjected, with the exception of the Board of Education.'"

"The informal meeting was really called, in consequence of the action of the Board of Education, to consider the enemy's new move in thus openly opposing their bill."

*Cleveland (O.) P. L.* The suggestion that messengers should carry books to and from the main library for the benefit of those using the West Side branch has been approved. The branch library is almost ready for opening. Rapid progress is being made in the work of fitting up rooms, 3000 duplicate volumes at the main library have been transferred to the branch, and telephone and messenger service are maintained between the two libraries, giving the West Side people the privilege of calling for any book in the main library by telephone, the messenger making two trips daily, bringing books called for that are not in the branch.

*Cold Spring Harbor Library, N. Y.* The library is proving a most useful factor in the enjoyment of the people, particularly the younger folks, who are giving the institution every encouragement this winter. At present there are 850 volumes listed on that catalogue, and more are constantly being added.

*Decatur, Ill.* The City Library has been partially destroyed by fire.

*Des Moines P. L.* The librarian, Miss Ella McLoney, assisted by Capt. H. H. Johnston, of Fort Dodge, edits a monthly report on libraries which appears in the *Des Moines Register* and other Iowa dailies. The second number was published March 13. To this column all librari-

ans are urged to contribute items regarding their library interests.

*East Orange, N. J.* The Free Library scheme does not boom as the projectors of the plan hoped. At the last meeting there was only \$6500 pledged out of the \$30,000 that is necessary for rendering available the liberality of Mr. Randall.

*Essex, Mass.* The death is announced of Mrs. Russ, the widow of the well-known Dr. John D. Russ, who invented an alphabet for the blind. According to the will of the doctor, his widow had the income from his estate during her lifetime, the estate itself to go to the town of Essex, Mass., where Dr. Russ formerly lived, for the purpose of founding a public library. The estate consists mainly of the real estate at Pompton, N. J., and several thousand dollars insurance.

*Fairfield (Iowa) Library Assoc.* What the late Senator Grimes did for Burlington by his gifts towards establishing a public library Senator Wilson is doing for Fairfield. For many years he has given of his means, his time, and personal efforts to build up the library. The result is that this town has one of the best, and, in proportion to its size, the largest public library in the State. The Carnegie donation of \$30,000 is the result of Senator Wilson's personal influence, and will be to him, as well as to the generous donor, a perpetual monument.

*Germantown, Pa., Friends' F. L.* Added 826; total 16,162; issued 12,868.

*Hartford, Conn.* The contractors at work on the new library building have notified the managers of the Hartford Library that by March 15, or very soon thereafter, the premises now occupied by the library must be vacated. The new rooms that the library is to have will be so nearly ready for use that they can be occupied then, and the present library-room will be torn to pieces and overhauled. The rule of the work has been to dislodge no tenant until new quarters were ready.

This change will necessitate a temporary closing of the Hartford Library. The books must be called in, renumbered and rearranged, and made ready to do duty in the coming free service. Accordingly the committee passed a vote that no books should be given out after March 10, and that all books must be brought back by March 15. The reading-room will not be closed a day. The full list of periodicals is paid for for the year and will be on hand. The transfer of the books, the new arrangement on new shelves by new methods, the binding, numbering, and so on will take time, and while the work is going on the Circulating Library itself will be altogether closed.

It is expected that by early fall at the latest the whole work will be done and the public have the opportunity to enjoy for all time the many privileges of this great scheme for the general welfare.

*Iowa City, State Univ. L.* Added 1500 vols. since September, total 28,000.

Free access to shelves is allowed, and the library is ransacked for data wanted in the prepara-

tion of papers required in topical and seminary work.

*Jersey City F. P. L.* (1st rpt., 10½ months.) Received 19,103; catalogd 16,220; issued 78,900 (fict. 84.14); Sunday issue 2082. Although the stations have been open only two months their success is assured beyond the most sanguine expectations. Collections are made in the morning by a man and team hired for the purpose. The boxes containing the books reach the library about noon, where they are exchanged for the books called for, and the boxes are usually ready to leave the library for the return trip about 3 o'clock.

The library has made arrangements with Mr. Albert Datz to publish a monthly bulletin of additions to the library, which will be known as the "Library Record," and will be gratuitously circulated.

*Johnstown (Pa.) P. L.* The dedication of the new library at Johnstown, Pa., built by Mr. Andrew Carnegie at a cost of \$65,000, took place on Feb. 19, in the presence of a large audience. The three-story buff-brick building is the finest in the town. — *Critic*, Feb. 27.

*Kansas City P. L.* Added 886; home use 23,263; lib. use 51,960 v., and 19,460 periodicals.

*Kokuk (Iowa) Lib. Assoc.* has received from Mr. H. C. Huiskamp a donation of \$500 for the purchase of new books.

*Marshalltown, Ia.* For several weeks a number of energetic ladies have been working to raise funds with which to establish what Marshalltown has never enjoyed, but greatly needed — a public library. Those who have ever been engaged in such work can fully realize what these ladies have had to do in order to raise the required sum — \$3000. The project is now an assured success. There have been several attempts made to establish a public library there, but none were successful until the ladies took the matter in hand. The idea of raising funds with which to establish a public library originated in the Women's Club.

*Massachusetts Free Public Library Commission.* The 2d report is very encouraging. 36 towns during the past year have established libraries and received from the State \$100 worth of books, leaving only 66 towns (with an aggregate population of 92,439) unprovided with free libraries. The books given have been selected with great care and with especial reference to the character and needs of the community in which they are to be placed, the main object having been to provide "reading that should be healthy in tone, pure and attractive in style, of educational value, and fitted to stimulate a love for the reading of good literature. American history, local and general, and nature study in its varied forms, have had particular prominence given them." Not the least interesting part of the report is the "notes of library progress," containing statements of the numerous gifts in money, books, and buildings made to the various towns in the State during 1891, as well as of the buildings begun or completed last year. A detailed ac-

count of each newly-established library, with various laws relating to libraries, is given in an appendix. — *Nation*, Feb. 11.

*Massachusetts.* The will of the late Mrs. William Stuart Appleton, which has been probated in the Suffolk County Probate Court, large bequests amounting to \$180,000. The public bequests are as follows: Harvard University and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, \$50,000 each; \$10,000 each to the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Boston Public Library, together with books, pamphlets undistributed of by will, the American Unitarian Association, Young Men's Christian Union, Young Women's Christian Association, New England Historical Genealogical Society, Provident Association and General Theological Library.

*Missoula, Wash.* At the meeting the City Council, Feb. 6, an ordinance was introduced and referred to the Ordinance Committee providing for the establishment of a city library and levying a tax of not more than one mill for its support. It is expected that in case the ordinance is favorably acted upon, the city will take the library at presented conducted by the Missoula Library and Gymnasium Association as a nucleus.

*Missouri.* "Nearly \$10,000 have been raised for school libraries in the past four months." — *Miss. school journal*.

*Mystic, Conn.* Captain Elihu Spicer, of the Mallory Steamship Company, has recently announced his intention to give to his native town of Mystic a public library. A few years ago some of the people in the village attempted to raise money for this purpose by means of entertainments and lectures, but Captain Spicer has taken the matter into his own hands.

*N. E. Hist. General. Soc. L.* Added 567 v., 621 pm., 1072 town reports; total about 20,000 v. and 60,000 pm.

*New Hampshire.* Under the library act passed last year (printed in *LIE. JNL.* 16: 141), the Governor appointed Mr. Pulsifer and Judge Nathan P. Hunt, President of the N. H. Library Association, Mr. J. H. Whittier, who was the author of the act, or rather the adapter of it from the Massachusetts Free Library Act, and is responsible for its success before the Legislature more than any other person, and Hon. W. Parker, an ex-Congressman, late President of the National Universalist Association, a gentleman who is very much interested in library work and well equipped for it. In place of Mr. Pulsifer and Judge Hunt, who declined to serve, Hon. J. J. Bell, of Exeter, and Gen. G. T. Craft, of Bethlehem, have been appointed. Mr. Arthur R. Kimball, State Librarian, is Secretary of the Board. Both of the new appointees are gentlemen long interested in library work and well qualified for their duties.

*New York Apprentices' L.* By the death of Mrs. Wilstach, widow of W. P. Wilstach, without leaving issue, she having survived her two children, the will of her husband, which distributes an estate amounting to over \$1,000,000 to public and charitable institutions, becomes



operative. The entire estate left by the testator was devised to his widow and daughter, and provided that, in the event of the latter dying without leaving issue surviving her, then the trust estate was to be devoted to the following purposes: One-fourth part of the trusts to revert to the Apprentices' Library Company to aid in the erection of a new building and for the increase of the library; one-fourth part to the city of Philadelphia, or to the State of Pennsylvania, or which of them shall first form an organization to realize the object of the bequest, which is the erection of a building in Fairmount Park, or elsewhere in the city of Philadelphia, to be used as a public picture gallery.

The will contains a contingency, by the provisions of which the Academy of the Fine Arts may receive a quarter of a million of dollars.

But in case the Academy of the Fine Arts fails to carry out his ideas, the testator directs that the bequest shall revert to the Apprentices' Library Company of Philadelphia, to aid in the erection of a building and for the increase of the library, and the will continues in these words: "Should it so happen that this fourth part be also paid to the Library Company, I trust that its managers and directors may be enabled to make it a public library of importance, and, with further aid from the citizens of Philadelphia, it will take rank beside the public library in the city of Boston."

*New York, N. Y., Lenox L.* The Senate has passed the bill increasing the number of trustees of the Lenox Library. This is one of the series of bills in which the Tilden trustees are interested. They hope to bring about a consolidation of several of the New York libraries with the Tilden trust fund.

*N. Y. Mercantile L.* An exhibition of the illustrated and art books contained in the library was made on the afternoon and evening of Feb. 17. Members of the library and their friends were present by invitation, and enjoyed examining the treasures spread out for inspection on the tables in Clinton Hall. The display surprised many of the 5000 people to whom invitations had been sent, as they had been under the impression that the Mercantile contained very little literature except of the lighter sort, most popular in lending libraries.

*New York, N. Y., St. Patrick Cathedral Library.* Under capable management the library of the parish has increased to 10,000 volumes. In consequence it is to be moved from its present quarters in the school hall to a separate building, which has been made over to the library officials by the cathedral trustees. A reading-room will be opened in the new building and all necessary accommodations introduced for those who desire to consult the books. It is the aim of the managers to increase the library's circulation to the extent of 80,000 a year, which will entitle the officials to draw upon the State Library Fund for annual aid.

*Northwestern University L., Evanston, Ill.* Vol. 2, no. 18, of the *Northwestern world* is called a "special librarian number." Of 15 col-

umns of reading-matter, 3½ relate to the library and about the same amount to athletes. It has about 25,000 volumes. The students have access to other libraries containing 350,000 volumes.

*Ohio.* 95 cities and towns are authorized to create library boards and establish libraries by an act passed by the House Feb. 28. Every city not exceeding in population 30,000 and every village of not less than 3000 population is given power to establish and maintain a public library and reading-rooms. For the government of the same there is to be appointed by council a board of 9 directors. They shall have exclusive control of the expenditure of all money collected for the library fund, and the supervision and care of the buildings. Every library shall be forever free for the use of the inhabitants of the city or village where located. A tax not exceeding 1 mill on each \$1 of the taxable property shall be assessed and set apart for the use of the library.

*Pawtucket, (R. I.) P. L.* For nearly a year past the authorities of the library have been conscious that some one was systematically relieving the institution of its supply of books. Suspicion was directed to a certain person and strict watch was kept upon him for a long time, but the attempt to apprehend him failed. In the course of time it became apparent that the thief carried on the greater part of his business on Saturday and sometimes Friday.

Their attention was directed to a certain woman who visited the library regularly on those days, and a private detective was brought in to watch her. He at once fastened the crime upon her, and she was arrested and taken to the station. Her name is Eva Ellis and she resides in West Attleboro. She was formerly a teacher in New Hampshire and had received a college education, and the high grade of the books taken indicate that she was considerable of a student. She was arraigned on the charge of larceny of over 200 books from the library, pleaded guilty, and was bound over in the sum of \$500 for appearance at the March term of the Court of Common Pleas.

*Peace Dale (R. I.), Narragansett L. Assoc.* Issued 7209 (fiction 74%).

*Philadelphia, Pa.* The committee of the Board of Education for the location of free libraries in the city at a meeting Feb. 16 passed a resolution providing for the appointment of three committees of two members each to select suitable buildings, to determine the class of books, and to form regulations for the government of the libraries. Messrs. Wright and Adair were appointed to look for buildings, Messrs. Gratz and Mertz to select the books and to report their probable cost, and Messrs. Harrington and Hubbard to form rules for their regulation.

In the annual appropriation \$15,000 was set aside for the establishment of the libraries, and their cost will have to be kept within this figure. The northeastern branch will be located as near the corner of Front and York Streets as possible. The location of the others is not yet determined. Suitable buildings will be rented and opened as soon as possible.

*Pittsburg (Pa.) P. L.* Mr. Andrew Carnegie has just authorized an increase of his magnificent \$1,000,000 library fund by the addition of \$100,000.

It was his intention to give it, provided granite was used in the construction of the main building, but he has since decided against that material, and has given the amount unconditionally. This additional sum will be expended on interior and exterior embellishments.

President Charles Smith, of the New York Chamber of Commerce, has asked the privilege of presenting the first gift to the library in the form of a handsome painting, a marine scene, now in the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

*Rockville, Conn.* In the will of George Maxwell, who died nearly a year ago, a bequest of \$5000 was made for the establishment and maintenance of a free library and reading-room in rooms already provided for the same purpose in the Union Congregational Church. The heirs are now ready to transfer this to the Union Ecclesiastical Society.

*St. Louis (Mo.) P. L.* At the meeting of the Board of Education, Feb. 9, Mr. Gist Blair introduced a resolution providing that when the Public Library is moved into the new building, it shall be maintained as a free public library, so that every citizen of St. Louis, irrespective of his pecuniary means, shall be afforded all the advantages of the library without charge.

The resolution also authorizes the Committee on Library to take proper steps to bring the project before the House of Delegates, City Council and Mayor to obtain official recognition and appropriation of funds.

It is understood that the Board favors the plan. Mr. Blair expects that a large increase in the circulation will follow the change. The librarian, Mr. Crunden, is strongly in favor of it.

"The charges now," said he, "are as small as they can consistently be made, \$2 a year for an adult and \$1 a year for any one under 18 years. But this charge stands as a bar to a good patronage of the library commensurate with the population of this city. There are, say 75,000 school-children in this city, but, strange as it may appear, there are not more than 1000 belonging to the library. Frequently I attend the schools, talk about the advantages of reading at the library and taking books from it, and a good many forthwith add their names to the roll of our patrons, but how many men would avail themselves of the advantages if I could tell them the library was free?"

"Just as an illustration," said Mr. Crunden, "people can come here and read without charge, and in 1887, 75,967 availed themselves of the privilege, and in 1891, 114,211. This growth shows something, and would have been greater if it were fully understood that it cost nothing to read here. The general impression is that because there is an annual fee to take books away from the library there is some charge to use them in the library.

"The library should be free," said Mr. Crunden emphatically. "The system has proved satisfactory elsewhere, and most productive of

good. The common but erroneous idea is that if we don't pay for a thing we don't value it. We breathe the air free, but isn't it likely if we had to pay for the air we breathe, we would begin to stint ourselves? The small charges here stand in the way of a proper patronage of the library, and good reading for the public should be as free as the air to promote and preserve intellectual and moral health.

"In cities where there are free libraries, the home consumption of books far exceeds that in cities where the charges may be ever so small. In Omaha there are many more public library books read than in St. Louis, though our population is six times as great. In Springfield, Ill., for instance, the fee was \$1 per year, payable semi-annually in the sum of 50 cents. Then the library was made free, and under the free system in one year the reading in the community had trebled. The free public library system has passed beyond the experimental stage; it has proved an unqualified success wherever it has been tried.

"The expense of maintaining the library now, circumscribed in its usefulness, is about \$20,000 a year. The maintenance of a free library would cost about \$40,000 annually. But Chicago this year has appropriated \$513,000 to the public library, \$113,000 of which goes to pay current expenses, the other \$400,000 being added to the building fund, the intention being to erect a \$1,000,000 edifice. The cost of the Free Public Library of Boston is \$120,000."

Questioned as to whether the loss of books under the free system would not be greater than now, Mr. Crunden said:

"Less. There were more than 1,000,000 volumes taken out of the Boston Free Public Library last year, and the losses were less than twenty books. Every person under the free system is guaranteed by two respectable resident citizens. They become responsible. As it is now, a person pays his \$2 a year, and has rights, as he thinks, while under the free system he would be privileged only. The free system is the best in all respects."

*San Francisco, Mercantile L. Assoc.* The new building was formally opened with a reception Saturday evening, Feb. 6.

*Scranton (Pa.) P. L., Albright Memorial Building.* (1st rpt.) Some 1220 v. of periodicals have been received, and nearly 11,000 other volumes have been ordered. The President asks for \$9975 appropriation for the coming year, and has written an open letter to the City Council on its necessity. The amount asked for is about 12 cts. per annum for each inhabitant. He says: "One of your trustees on his way home one cold night saw a little boy sitting on the curbstone under the electric light reading a child's paper with intense interest. It is for all such budding intellects, with their bright eyes, dormant now by the hundreds in every ward of this city, that the hospitable arms of our benevolent institution will be soon extended."

*Vermont, University of, Library.* It is a noticeable fact that from the end of November on through the winter the reading of Shakespeare is



prevalent, dying out usually as spring comes on. Scott and Thackeray are the favorite English novelists, while Howells and Hawthorne are most read in American fiction. It is interesting to see what a difference a new edition of almost any readable author makes. — G. W. ALGER, in an article on one week's reading in the *University cynic*.

*Wheaton (suburb of Chicago), Adams Memorial L.* Oct. 28, a new building was dedicated. It is the gift of Mr. J. Q. Adams, of Chicago. It has a basement and two stories 50 x 75 feet. It was designed by Charles S. Frost, of Chicago, in the Byzantine treatment of the Romanesque. The roof is of red slate, with copper trimmings. The interior is furnished with tile floors and marble wainscoting and is finished throughout in oak. In the basement are located the heating apparatus, gas-machine, lavatory, fuel-rooms, etc.

On the first floor are the lecture-room, with a capacity of 200 people, the large general reading-room, a ladies' reception and reference room and the library proper. The auditorium occupies the entire second floor. It has a seating capacity of 500 and is richly furnished and beautifully decorated. Back of the stage are two retiring rooms, also a trustees' reception and a class room.

The entire building is fitted with gas and electric appliances, ventilating apparatus, and is practically fire-proof. No expense has been spared to make it as handsome, comfortable, and convenient as possible.

Besides the library and grounds Mr. Adams has given the trustees a piece of Chicago property the income of which will be sufficient to maintain the library. He also gave \$3000 to begin the purchase of books. In all the donations must amount to something over \$75,000. The library opens with about 3000 books, which were selected with great care and have been arranged by experts after the most approved methods. Something over 10,000 books can be accommodated in the library proper, and if necessary some of the other rooms can be devoted to library purposes.

*Wilkes-Barre P. L.* By a recent vote of the Board of Directors an appropriation has been made for furnishing duplicates of interesting juvenile and other books of history, literature, biography, description and travel, and natural history, to be used by the teachers in connection with school work.

"The present Extension course on Political Economy by Edward T. Devine is showing what a live teacher backed by a good library can do. All the books referred to in the syllabus, which it was possible to procure, were purchased at once, placed in the reference department at the beginning of the course, and their use has been constant. Every day and often every hour in the day groups of readers are gathered, studying and writing, or consulting over some knotty point. The frequent presence of Mr. Devine in the library has been of great assistance to readers, as class-work is a special hobby of his. Then on the afternoon previous to each lecture Mr. Devine meets at the library those who enjoy the informal conference on topics suggested by the

lectures or the question papers. Here the answers which have been sent in are discussed, and many questions asked which the inquirers would not have courage to offer in the public hall. These conferences are considered by many the most profitable feature of the course.

"The discussion which follows the lectures and which is participated in by men who are thinking of and dealing with the serious practical questions of the day, adds its interest and value to the whole subject, and the result of all these methods and forces is a thorough awakening of latent powers of thought and reasoning which many of the participants were unaware they possessed. The remark is frequently heard, 'I knew nothing of political economy before, and never supposed I could understand it, but it is a most delightful study, and I am going to read up in it after the course is over.' Thus it is plainly to be seen that more readers, and a better selection of books can but follow; and just here is where the library can keep abreast, if it does not lead, in helping to excite and stimulate a love of knowledge, and in supplying the means of gratifying the thirst which it has awakened. And in helping to awaken it, we have shown there is no better way than by promoting University Extension teaching."

*Winterset (Iowa) P. L.* The care of the library was assumed by the city at the first of the year. It is supported by a one-mill tax levy. Miss M. Cassidy is the very efficient librarian.

The library committee arranged for a library course of lectures and other literary entertainments during the months of Nov. and Dec., for the benefit of the library. This course proved very popular and a financial success.

### Cataloging and Classification

THE library bulletin of the CORNELL UNIVERSITY contains a list of deficiencies in the May anti-slavery collection. We notice in the additions a detailed list of the 237 numbers of the *Sclta di curiosità litterarie* (Bologna, 1860-91), the gift of Willard Fiske.

FORTESCUE, G. K. A subject-index of the Modern works added to the Library of the British Museum in 1885-90. London, 1891. 6+700 p. 8°. £2.

THE JERSEY CITY F. P. L. has begun the issue of a bulletin entitled "Library record." (No. 1, Feb. 15.)

PROVIDENCE P. L. Finding list. Prov., 1891. 7+525+[1] p. 1 o.

#### CHANGED TITLES.

"A MERRY bachelor," by Alain René Le Sage, 12°, N. Y., 1892, Worthington & Co., is the same as "The history of Vanillo Gonzales," published by J. C. Nimmo & Bain, London, 1881.

W. T. PROPLES.

"OUR childhood's holidays by Chatty Cheerful," is the same as "What the little ones saw."

Miss H. P. JAMES.

FULL NAMES.

Wells, Daniel Halsey, actuary (mortality experience of the Conn. Mut. Life Ins. Co., 1846-78, Hartford, 1884; Tables based on the American table of mortality and 3% interest. Hartford, 1890).

*The following are furnished by Harvard College Library:*

Bandy, James Marcus (An analytical arithmetic);

Gilbert, E: Hooker (Early grants and Incorporation of the town of Ware);

Fitz Gerald, J: E: (Report on the transportation of passengers in and around the cities of Europe);

Freeman, J: Ripley (The nozzle as an accurate water meter);

Ingersoll, Edwin Dwight (Facts about Denver);

Stearns, J: Milton (The germs and developments of the laws of England);

Wade, Rufus Robbins (Development of labor legislation in Massachusetts).

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ANNUAL Index of periodicals and photographs for 1891. London, Mowbray House, 1891. 145 p. 8°.

BERLINER, A. Censur u. Confiscation hebräischer Bücher im Kirchenstaate; auf Grund der Inquisitions-Akten in der Vaticana und Vallicelliana dargestellt. Frankf. a. M., M. Kauffmann, 1891. 65 p. 8°.

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A reprint, with additions, of "An attempt at a bibliography of Hampshire" issued a few years ago. It includes books on the Channel Islands; but in this respect it is far from perfect, as may be seen from a casual glance at the Catalogue of the Guille-Allès Library. Any one hoping to find a complete account of the editions of White's "Selborne" will also be disappointed. Cobbett's "Life" is included, but the "Rural rides" is omitted. The list of books and periodicals containing Hampshire references and the particulars of county newspapers are useful. — *Atk.*

HAFFERKORN, H. E. Handy list of books on mines and mining, assaying, metallurgy, analytical chemistry, minerals, mineralogy, geology, paleontology, etc.; alphabetical reference-catalogue, under authors and subjects, and in-

cluding analytical references to the contents of important works; including issues from 1880 to May, 1891, and a number of earlier books often met with in catalogues, also a short list of German works. Milwaukee, H. E. Haferkorn, 1891. 6 + 87 p. 8°. \$1 cloth bound with Key to Publishers; 75 c. without Key.

JOSEPHSON, Aksel G. S. Avhandlingar ock program utgivna vid svenska ock finska akademier ock scholar 1855-90, bibliografi. Upsala, 1892. O. 5 kr.

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From the "Bibliog. stor. degli stati della monarchia di Savoia," v. 4

RIPPERGER, A. Die Influenza, ihre Geschichte, etc., mit ausführlichem Verzeichniss der einschlägigen Literatur. München, J. F. Lehmann, 1892. 12 + 338 p. 8°. 10 m.

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| " 284. Ancient history, numismatic, etc., 1225 nos.   | } Library of Prof. A. Springer of Leipzig.                |
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